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Daily Telegraph

No. 40,260. LONDON, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1984

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STAR WARS WARNING BY GORBACHEV

I like him, says Thatcher

By DAVID ADAMSON Diplomatic Correspondent
MR MIKHAIL GORBACHEV said yesterday that it would be "unreal" to hope to stop the nuclear arms race unless there is a ban on space weaponry.

His remarks, made at a speech during a chilly lunch in the Great Hall of Hampton Court, followed two hours and 40 minutes of talks with Sir Geoffrey Howe, Foreign Secretary.

As on the previous day at Chequers, the focus was on the approaching Geneva arms talks and Soviet concern with what Mr Gorbachev, regarded as the second most senior man in the Kremlin, calls "the militarisation of space."

Yesterday's talks, in fact, continued more or less from where they left off on Sunday with Mrs Thatcher, who flew out yesterday on a six-day world tour, including visits to Peking and Washington.

The talks were described by British sources as "friendly and substantive, businesslike," as well as "very relaxed."

Mr Gorbachev's warning about space weaponry was part of the manoeuvring over the format and agenda of the arms control talks, which is being conducted by the Russians as well as by the Americans.

The Reagan Administration is apparently committed to a new era of defensive weapons that could destroy incoming nuclear missiles from space.

The Soviet Union, still far behind in this field, is threatening to block progress on limiting long-range and medium-range missiles unless "Star Wars" space weaponry is firmly on the agenda with a view to banning it.

Some British sympathy

Mrs Thatcher seemed at least partly sympathetic to that view in a BBC interview in which she said: "One does not want to go into a higher and higher level of armaments. But she thought the most important thing at the moment was to concentrate on the form the arms control talks would take."

She said of her Chequers guest: "I like Mr Gorbachev. We can do business together."

As a result of his visit she was "cautiously optimistic" that East-West relations could be improved.

"We have two great interests in common: that we should do everything we can to see war never starts again, so we can do everything we can to determine to make them succeed."

Mr Thatcher will see President Reagan in Washington on Saturday.

Hours with Mr Gorbachev, the Kremlin's No. 2, at Chequers on Sunday she will see President Reagan in Washington on Saturday before returning to London.

The Washington meeting will enable her and Sir Geoffrey Howe, Foreign Secretary, to give their impressions of Soviet attitudes and the extent of Soviet anxieties about American research into a Star Wars defence system.

She is not claiming to be an intermediary, but what she has to say is expected to have a bearing on the American negotiating position at the talks.

The arguments on that are said to be still continuing in Washington and it is up to Mr Reagan to resolve them in advance of the Geneva Jan. 7-8 meeting between Mr Shultz, Secretary of State, and Mr Gromyko, Soviet Foreign Minister.

Mrs Thatcher left for Peking last night and arrives there tonight. Following tomorrow's signing ceremony and talks in Peking, she will fly to Hong Kong on Thursday.

She will give a Press conference there on Friday before flying to Washington. She is expected to return to London on Sunday.

Pensions staff end strike

By DAVID FLETCHER
Health Services
Correspondent

COMPUTER staff at the Department of Health and Social Security who have been on strike for seven months, voted yesterday to return to work in the New Year.

Their action has disrupted payment of pensions and child benefit to several million people, and has cost the department up to £100 million in additional administration.

The dispute ended in bitterness as the 400 strikers at DHSS offices in Newcastle upon Tyne and Washington, Tyne and Wear, attacked their own union, the Civil and Public Service Association, for failing to support them and unanimously passed a vote of no confidence in Mr Alistair Graham, the union's general secretary.

The strike started in mid-May in protest at DHSS plans for new shift-working patterns designed to save £700,000 a year.

Staff complained that the new arrangements would lose them pay of up to £14 a week, but the DHSS promised to safeguard all wages for two years.

Other unions accept

Two smaller unions accepted this arrangement, but the CPSA members voted to stay out.

When the rest of the CPSA membership refused to join the strike, the union's executive advised the strikers to return to work on the terms accepted by the two smaller unions.

A spokesman for the DHSS said that because of the strike it would take weeks, or even months, before all benefit payments would return to normal. In the meantime, claimants should continue with present methods of receiving payments and would be notified as soon as they could return to normal methods.

FORD PEACE FORMULA REJECTED

By Our Industrial Staff

Trade union leaders of 270 women sewing machinists, who strike in a grading dispute, have stopped all Ford car production, yesterday rejected the company's latest peace formula. They will report to the strikers themselves today.

The strike has already cost 10,000 workers lost off at Ford plants between £500 and £600 each, and they now look likely to lose this week's pay as well as the strike continues into the New Year. But they will be paid during the company's Christmas shutdown.

The dispute has caused the loss of more than £200 million worth of cars at showroom prices. The machinists are claiming an extra £6-67 a week to £144.

GETTY £120,000 FOR WORKING MINERS

Mr Paul Getty II has given £120,000 to the National Working Miners' Committee, to raise financial hardship among working pit men who have been intimidated and have had property damaged.

His donation follows an earlier gift of £100,000 to the striking miners families Christmas Appeal Fund. Mr Getty, who lives in Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, is among 200 Baptists sentenced or fined for picketing.

BEST PAID MAN'S £250,000 RISE

By Our City Staff
Richard Giordano, 50, Britain's highest paid executive, received a £250,000 (£4,800 per week) pay rise last year.

The American-born chief executive of BOC group, the industrial gases giant, collected £771,600 compared with £521,500 in 1983. His pay is related to BOC's profitability.

SWEDES WIN DAVIS CUP

Sweden beat America 3-0 in the Davis Cup final in Gothenburg last night. Earlier Jimmy Connors was fined £1,600 for swearing on court on Sunday.

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Child murderer Colin Evans pictured with a four-year-old girl.

Suspect shot dead after bomb attack

By KENNETH CLARKE in Belfast

A SUSPECTED terrorist was shot dead and another suspect was captured yesterday after an incident in which a Land-Rover carrying seven members of the Ulster Defence Regiment was destroyed by a roadside bomb on a country road in Armagh.

Two of the seven UDR men in the Land-Rover were "very seriously" injured in the attack. But minutes later two armed suspects were seen running away and a police patrol opened fire.

The identity of the dead suspect was not immediately released, but it is understood that the captured man is a brother of Seamus Grew, a leading member of the Irish National Liberation Army, who was shot dead by RUC two years ago.

IRA man drowns

Earlier yesterday, the Provisional IRA said another of its men involved in a gun battle with Special Air Service undercover soldiers on the Fermanagh - Donegal border early this month had died.

An SAS man, L/Cpl Alastair Slater, and one terrorist were killed in an exchange of shots near the village of Kesh. Four other terrorists fled and one was seen diving into the River Banagher in an attempt to cross the border.

He had either drowned or died from exposure, said an IRA statement issued in Dublin. His death brings to five the number of terrorists killed in clashes with the security forces this month.

On Sunday night, the Irish National Liberation Army came close to murdering one of the most outspoken Protestant politicians in Londonderry, Mr Gregory Campbell, a member of the Rev. Ian Paisley's Democratic Unionist party.

A bomb found near his home is believed by police to have fallen from his car without detonating.

The Ulster Secretary Mr Hurd was asked yesterday about a newspaper report that an Anglo-Irish "deal" was being considered that would involve the Dublin Government giving up its constitutional claim to the six counties of Northern Ireland in return for guaranteed power-sharing in Ulster.

He said the report was "very speculative," adding that it was not for the British Government to "deliver power-sharing" and any change in the Irish constitution must be entirely a matter for the Dublin Government.

'MEAN' ARTS GRANT

The Government yesterday announced what Lord Gower, Arts Minister, described as "a rather mean" overall increase of 5.8 per cent. for the arts, museums and libraries next year. There were immediate protests from the Arts Council, National Gallery, British Museum, National Theatre and British Film Institute.

Details—P2

HITCH IN RESCUE OF BANK

By ANNE SEGALL
Banking Correspondent

THE major banks are delaying contributions to the rescue of Johnson Matthey Bankers, the failed section of the Johnson Matthey precious metals group, taken over by the Bank of England on Oct. 1.

They have been asked to provide £50 million towards a £150 million indemnity scheme, but are refusing because they are tax relief on their contributions.

If the banks pull out, the Bank of England will have to shoulder the burden alone, thus involving the taxpayer in massive losses.

The bank has already called for £75 million of indemnities to be met by the end of the year.

In the Commons yesterday, the Chancellor, Mr Lawson, announced a top-level review of the Bank of England's supervisory arrangements and of the Bank's Act itself in response to the Johnson Matthey affair.

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LATE NEWS

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MINERS KILLED

Seven black miners dead, eight missing, after accidents at two South African gold mines.—Reuter.

WHIP REBUKES CORBYN

By NICHOLAS COMFORT
Political Staff

MR JEREMY CORBYN, Left-wing Labour MP for Islington North, was rebuked by the Opposition Chief Whip yesterday for inviting two convicted terrorists to a meeting just 15 days after the Brighton bombing.

Mr Michael Cocks told Mr Corbyn that his meeting with Mr Linda Quigley, 21, and Mr Gerard McLoughlin, 29, had shown "thoughtlessness of the highest order."

"I understand his deep concern over the Irish problem and 'strip searches' in prisons, but I felt the timing and location of the meeting was unfortunate," Mr Cocks said afterwards.

Mr Corbyn, for his part, was unrepentant.

Last night Mr Cocks, who has made a considerable number of members among Left-wing MPs, was facing criticism and possible censure at tomorrow's meeting of the Parliamentary Labour party.

Left-wing MPs were incensed that the Chief Whip had gone on television and attacked Mr Corbyn before meeting him to ascertain exactly what had happened.

Visited hotel

Meanwhile it was learned that Linda Quigley, who had been imprisoned on bombing and firearms charges, had visited the Labour Party conference hotel at Blackpool and shared a "fringe" meeting platform with Mr Peter Archer, Shadow Northern Ireland Secretary.

Labour's Blackpool conference committed the party to oppose "strip-searching" after a vigorous lobbying campaign in which Miss Quigley played an active part.

£2.5m HEROIN SEIZED BY CUSTOMS

By Our Crime Staff
Customs seized more than 2½ tons of heroin valued at over £2.5 million from two false batteries in a motor caravanette at Dover yesterday.

In an operation codenamed Nimbus, officers had followed the caravanette and another vehicle overland from Lahore in Pakistan. Two men at Dover, a woman in Belfast, and three men in Manchester were helping police with inquiries last night.

Today's Weather

GENERAL SITUATION: Rather cold. W. airstream covers most areas. LONDON, E. ENGLAND, ENGLAND, MIDLANDS: Mist early, mostly clear, sunny periods. Cloudier later with showers and some rain. Sleet on some high ground. Wind S.W., light but becoming moderate and veering W. Max 45° F/6°C.

S.E. CENT. S.W. ENGLAND, CHANNEL ISLANDS: Showers becoming widespread and prolonged. Wind S.W. or W., moderate increasing fresh perhaps strong. Max 45° F/6°C.

W. COAST: Showers, sleet or snow in places chiefly on hills. Wind S.W. or W., moderate or strong. Max 45° F/6°C.

S. NORTH SEA, STRAIT OF DOVER, ENGLISH CHANNEL (E.): Wind W. backing S.W., force 3 or 4. Sea moderate or rough.

OFFSHORE: Changeable with rain at times.

Weather maps—P22

30 years for 'evil killer' of Marie Payne

By ALAN COPPS

COLIN EVANS, the "evil, unfeeling" killer of four-year-old Marie Payne, was jailed for at least 30 years yesterday amid demands for an inquiry into how Berkshire's social services committee allowed him to become a baby-sitter despite a string of previous convictions for sexual assaults on children.

Sir Gerard Vaughan, former Tory Health Minister, calling for an inquiry, said: "Local agencies have got to take much more care how they go about selecting people for this kind of work."

Evans, a 45-year-old lorry driver from Reading, pleaded guilty at the Old Bailey to the murder of Marie Payne.

Mr Justice Kenneth Payne, passing a life sentence, told Evans: "I regard you as an evil, dangerous and unfeeling man and as long as you are at large there is always a danger you will murder again in pursuit of your sordid perversions."

Evans led police to Marie's shallow grave in Epping Forest in May this year, 14 months after he had abducted her from outside her Dagenham home.

In the forest, Evans stripped Marie and indecently assaulted her.

When she started to cry he smashed her head with a heavy branch before leaving the body in a shallow grave.

Two days later Evans returned to the murder scene, sexually mutilated Marie's body and took obscene photographs. Then he buried the body and put her clothes in a tree trunk.

Police had no clues to Marie's disappearance until nearly seven months later when her bloodstained clothing was discovered. They did not find the body, although it was only 250 yards away.

But one Sunday in May this year — on one of Evans' "bad days" when his sexual urge was rampant — he made three attempts to abduct young children in Essex.

His car registration number was noted by one of the children's fathers and three days later police arrested Evans at the builders' merchants in Reading where he worked.

That evening he searched his flat in Russell Street, Reading, and found a stack of indecent photographs of young girls, including Marie.

He confessed to the murder, telling police: "You will never know what has been going through my mind. I have wanted to know what he would do if he behaved but he refused on religious grounds."

Continued on Back P. Col 6

GAS BILLS UP IN NEW YEAR

By ROLAND GRIBBEN
Business Correspondent

BRITISH GAS will announce tomorrow a five per cent. rise in tariffs from February and changes in rebates on standing orders for small users to try to help the elderly rather than owners of holiday homes.

The increase in bills will work out at around 4.5 per cent. after taking into account the continued freeze on standing charges for the vast majority of the industry's domestic customers.

The rises are needed to meet Government financial targets aimed at getting a higher contribution from the State corporation and cover higher costs being paid for gas supplies.

British Gas is being asked to provide around £1.4 billion for the Treasury in the shape of taxes and "loans" to help reduce the cost of financing the loss-making state industries.

Consumers qualify for a rebate if the quarterly standing charge exceeds the cost of gas they use. The reduction was introduced to help the elderly and low paid, but has benefited people with second homes.

British Gas estimated that the rebate would cost about £20 million a year but the latest estimates show the figure is running closer to £40 million.

ANTI-SANTA JAILING

By Our New York Staff

A man who toured a Vermont shopping centre saying that Santa Claus does not exist was still in jail after five days yesterday because he refused to promise to keep quiet. Brian Pearl, of Essex, Vermont, was told he could go free if he behaved but he refused on "religious grounds."

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L'Air du Temps
NINA RICCI
PARIS

STORM OVER 'MEAN' RISE IN ARTS GRANT

By KEITH NURSE Arts Correspondent

AN overall increase of 5.8 per cent. in Government support for the arts, museums and libraries next year was announced by Lord Gowrie, Arts Minister, last night to a chorus of condemnation from nearly all the recipients.

Many arts bodies will have to make do with increases of only three per cent., well below the current inflation rate.

The Arts Council will receive only five per cent. more: £105 million, compared with £100 million this year. Lord Gowrie conceded that he had managed only "a rather mean overall increase."

Sir William Rees-Mogg, Arts Council chairman, said: "Many of our clients, faced with grants increasingly below inflation, will find their very existence in jeopardy."

The £105 million was £15 million less than they had asked for.

Sir Michael Levey, director of the National Gallery, said he was appalled. Their purchase grant for 1985/86 showed "flagrant indifference" to the rising prices of Old Master paintings.

The British Museum was "taken aback" and said it would have to undertake a radical re-think of its purchasing policy.

"Tragedy" for theatre Sir Peter Hall, director of the National Theatre, described it as a "tragic day for the subsidised theatre."

All the good work built up since the end of the war was now rapidly being destroyed. An increase of three per cent. against a higher inflation rate would result in "appalling" severe cut backs at the National, an end of touring and include reductions in staff and in the company.

There would be £1.5 million in special sums allocated for conservation and display, and aid for building maintenance and repair would rise by more than 15 per cent. to £28.7 million. The purchase grants were being reduced partially to offset this increase.

More for authors He acknowledged, however, that with its allocation of £3 for 1985-86, the National Heritage Memorial Fund would be "squeezed a bit," a development which casts a shadow over the future of Kedleston Hall, Derbyshire, which is in danger of being sold and its priceless furniture and paintings dispersed.

But Kedleston, said Lord Gowrie, was a "special case." The British Film Institute whose grant rises from £7.7 million to £8.075 million, a rise of 4.5 per cent., expressed "dismay" and said its allocation for feature film making

through the Film Production Board, and worth about £150,000, would probably have to be abandoned.

But there was some good news for authors in Lord Gowrie's package. Payments under the Public Lending Right scheme, the ceiling of which is currently £2 million, are to rise by about 40 per cent.

Grant allocations

The allocations for 1985/86 include the following purchase grants:

British Museum £1,480,000 (£1,373,000 in 1984/85); National Gallery £2,750,000 (£3,331,000); Tate Gallery £1,185,000 (£2,041,000); Victoria and Albert Museum £1,145,000 (£1,520,000).

British Library total grant £49,540,000 (£46,350,000); British Library's new building at St Pancras construction cost £7,245,000 (£5,538,000).

National museums and galleries building and maintenance programme £28,700,000 (£24,800,000); National Heritage Memorial Fund (Office of Arts and Libraries share) £1,500,000 (£4 million); Acceptances of works of art in lieu of tax £1 million (£2 million).

National Film and Television School £1,120,000 (£980,000); Crafts Council £1,880,000 (£1,771,000); Government Business Sponsorship Incentive Scheme £1 million (£500,000).

GIFTS TO NATION

Government stringency

OUR POLITICAL STAFF write: The Government is to become more stringent in its selection of gifts to the nation in lieu of tax payments. This year's provision for acceptance in lieu of tax stands at £4 million, which includes 2 million towards the purchase of land and property at Calke Abbey.

But Mr Waldegrave, Environment Under-Secretary, announced yesterday that resources for acceptances for next year were limited.

He said that in reaching its decisions in future the Government would be looking for strong evidence that acceptance in lieu on behalf of the taxpayer, bearing in mind the substantial tax incentive to the offerer, represented especially good value for money.



ANNE SCARGILL 'VULGAR'

By LESLIE CHILDE
In Rome

A "TONE-DOWN" five-minute interview with Mrs Anne Scargill, wife of the miners' leader, is to be broadcast today by the globe-girdling Vatican Radio.

Throughout most of a trip to Italy Mrs Scargill was shepherded around by officials of the giant Communist-controlled G.C.I.L. trade union confederation.

She obtained cash handouts and other solidarity gestures from Italian workers, and was accompanied on her mission by Mrs Marsha Marshall, secretary of the Barnsley Miners' Wives Association.

She and Mrs Marshall should have returned to Britain on Saturday. But they were approached by the Jesuits who run the Vatican Radio, which broadcasts round-the-clock services in more than 30 languages.

Mrs Scargill was interviewed, but as one Vatican Radio official said, her references to Mrs Thatcher and other British domestic issues were "so vulgar and scurrilous" that the taped interview was scrapped.

Yesterday she was driven to Vatican Radio's headquarters for a second interview made by a British-born newscaster, Amanda Michison. This time her words were described as "bland and usable."

GUARD WOUNDED

A security guard was shot in the leg during a raid on the Presto supermarket in Balham High Road, South London, yesterday.

Scargill awaits talks call from Government

By STEPHEN WARD Industrial Staff

MR ARTHUR SCARGILL, the miners' president, told TUC leaders yesterday that he had no intention of bowing to Government demands that he adopt a more flexible posture in strike negotiations.

"If there is a move on the part of Government to reopen talks then we will respond, they know where we are," he said.

It left the TUC's "inner cabinet," its Finance and General Purposes Committee, with nothing but discouraging news to pass on tomorrow's meeting of the General Council when the stoppage is due to be discussed.

Peace signal Mr Scargill, together with the N.U.M.'s vice president, Mr Mick McGahey, and its general secretary, Mr Peter Heathfield, were at TUC headquarters to meet its general secretary, Mr Norman Willis, and his six-man monitoring team.

The group gave the miners' leaders a detailed report on their fruitless approach to the Energy Secretary, Mr Walker, last week in search of a peace signal. The Minister blamed Mr Scargill's "intransigence" for the continued deadlock.

Yesterday the miners' leader reaffirmed that his commitment to the union's central demands on pit closure terms remained unchanged. He asserted: "The obligation to resume negotiations belongs to the Coal Board who broke them off."

It has left the TUC surging the ruins of its peace initiative with no sign of movement this side of Christmas to lift members' spirits.

The stalemate remains and an atmosphere of inertia seems to prevail.

A proposal that a rally in the TUC's support should be held in London later this week received no support from the committee members yesterday and there are no hard proposals about how the TUC will effect the assistance it has promised the union.

The General Council is expected tomorrow merely to endorse that pledge which calls on other unions to "redouble their efforts" to back the miners.

whether to go back had decided to wait until the New Year, to see whether the expected accelerated drift back was going to take place.

Seventy-three ex-trikers reported for work for the first time in the 41-week-old strike yesterday, the lowest Monday figure since October.

Coal Board regions gave the following figures yesterday for pits working and on strike, and for the number of miners working and returning to work for the first time.

These figures do not take account of "new starters" at coal products plants, or returning N.U.M. clerical staff.

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£4,000 'RED MEMORIAL' UPROAR

A FURIOUS row broke out yesterday over plans to erect a memorial in the "People's Republic of South Yorkshire" to a Communist who died more than a decade ago.

Up to £4,000 of ratepayers' money is to be spent on a memorial garden in Rotherham by the Labour-controlled county council in recognition of "Red" Tommy James, a former president of the town's Trades Council.

Mr Irvine Patrick, leader of the opposition Conservative group at County Hall, said the move was "a disgrace and an insult" to local people at a time when money was short.

"There are plenty of other worthy people more relevant to the people of South Yorkshire who could have been remembered," he said.

"After all the damage the Communists did to this locality with their strikes in the 1970s, I am absolutely astonished."

Civil war was 1971. Mr James died in 1971, three years before the county council was formed. A card-carrying Communist for 50 years, he fought with the International Brigade in the Spanish Civil War.

During the 1926 General Strike he was imprisoned for three months for urging miners not to return to work. He spent sometime in Russia as a student of working-class history at the time of the Stalinist purges.

But Mr Roy Thwaites, leader of the Conservative group, said the memorial was being erected because of Mr James's contribution to local trade unionism, adding: "The fact he was a Communist is irrelevant."

"We are recognising a man because of his contribution to his home town. He was a key figure in Rotherham for years."

Extradition pact traps Irishmen

By TERENCE SHAW
Legal Correspondent

THREE men wanted in America to face serious charges were remanded in custody by a Dublin court yesterday after their arrest at the weekend under a new extradition treaty between Ireland and America that came into force at midnight Friday.

Implementation of the new convention which fills a gap in the extradition law of the Republic was deliberately kept quiet by the Irish authorities so as not to alert the three who were arrested in Dublin, Galway and County Meath.

Irish police had been aware for some time that a number of individuals wanted for alleged offences in America were living in Ireland.

Radification delay

The treaty was drawn up more than a decade ago but because of various difficulties was not signed until July 1983. The order for its ratification was put before both houses of the Irish parliament at the end of November.

The agreement excludes extradition for "political offences." How this will affect the extradition of alleged terrorists will be a matter of interpretation for the courts of both countries.

The three men remanded in custody by a Dublin district court yesterday are Norman Douglas McCauley, of Riverstown, Ashbourne, Co. Meath, who is sought in connection with a New York murder 14 years ago; James Gilliland, of Slathill, Co. Wick, who is sought in connection with a Dublin murder 1968; and Charles J. Grawley, of Wicklow, who is wanted on fraud charges.

JUDGE GRANTS
CHECK ON POLY
STUDENT FUNDS

The Attorney-General was granted an immediate court order yesterday allowing him to inspect the bank account of North London Polytechnic's Students Union.

An application was made to Mr Justice Scott following Press reports that the students' union had already sent cheques for £5,000 to striking miners and £5,000 to Ethiopia's famine victims in defiance of court orders made last week.

Mr Christopher McCall, for the Attorney-General, said there was concern that the students' union funds might be in jeopardy since the court order had apparently been flouted. Inspection of the accounts would permit the Attorney-General to ascertain who had signed the cheques.

PROMOTION FOR
TUC OFFICIAL

By Our Industrial Staff
Mr Roy Jackson, 56, the head of the TUC's education department, was yesterday chosen as an assistant general secretary by the Finance and General Purposes Committee.

Now, he and the two existing assistant general secretaries — Mr Kenneth Graham, industrial relations, and Mr David Lea, economic policy, will compete for the post of deputy general secretary vacated by Sir William on his promotion to general secretary last September.

YOUNG MINER
ON STRIKE
FOUND DEAD

Police are investigating the death of a young striking miner who was found at his home with an empty bottle of tablets beside him.

David Hughes, 20, an apprentice electrician at Trelwys Drift mine near Merthyr Tydfil and son of a lodge official at a neighbouring pit, died in hospital after telephoning a relative to say he had taken some pills.

He had been active in picketing during the strike and was due to appear in court to answer charges arising from one picket line incident.

Ex-council staff still paid despite finding new job

By A. J. McILROY

HUNDREDS of civil servants displaced in the local government reorganisation 10 years ago are still picking up index-linked redundancy pay even though they have found other jobs.

In one case a former chief officer, now in another job, is being paid about "£7,000 a year" by a Berkshire council.

"This is a continuing situation and no laws are being broken," a spokesman for the Local Authorities Conditions of Service and Advisory Committee, said last night.

"As long as the individuals concerned do not find employment or any other job funded by the ratepayer or taxpayer they will continue to be entitled to the pay until they retire."

The agreement does not extend beyond retirement. Hundreds, rather than thousands, are involved which is presumably why so generous an arrangement was possible.

Some members of Conservative-controlled Newbury district council in Berkshire have protested that the ratepayers have had to find £75,000 since 1974 to pay a former chief clerk.

"We have been told these payments must go on until he retires," said Councillor Keith Lock, a Liberal. "Apparently this is the arrangement made 10 years ago."

But we did not appreciate that these payments would continue until local government. "He has been working since then as a solicitor and this means he continues to get two incomes and will do so until he retires."

More than salary Mr Lock said the official concerned was now earning in redundancy payments more than the £4,000 his salary at the time of the local government reorganisation.

Mr Lock said he had raised the issue because "we want to make sure that these kind of agreements are not made in future."

Mr Brian Thetford, Newbury council's chief executive, said the redundancy agreement for the former chief officer was drawn up under government rules laid down in the local government reorganisation. This stipulated that officials losing their jobs and having 10 years or less to go before retirement would benefit.

RAF to save £20m by
trimming fuel bill

By Air Cdre G. S. COOPER Air Correspondent
THE Royal Air Force is to trim its fuel bill by £20 million this year and expects to balance its budget by March, despite reports of up to £600 million overspending.

Delay in the development of the Airborne Early Warning Nimrod has caused the programme to overrun by at least £400 million, but the main effect of this disaster will not hit the RAF budget until the next financial year.

Flying has been cut back by just over 10 per cent, largely by shortening the time spent on non-operational flights.

Rescue services and Tornado flying in Germany will not be affected. A Defence Ministry spokesman said yesterday, and in general the fuel saving will not hamper front-line squadrons and the training of new pilots.

Senior officers say a reduction in flying hours is the easiest cutback to make effective, although they will not allow pilots' hours to drop to a level below which safety might be affected.

Other savings are being made by restricting travel by personnel and there could be delays to building contracts.

£2.8bn programme

The pressure has been applied since last month, but the cutback is not as great as the 17 per cent. reduction imposed in 1981.

The RAF has the largest capital programme of any of the three Services, at £2.8 billion. If its total budget went off course by only five per cent, the overspend or underspend would be about £250m.

Many costly programmes have come to a head recently — buying new Tornados, fighter aircraft and British Airways Tristar, as well as stretching about 30 Hercules transports.

Then there is the Nimrod AEW programme, which is in deep trouble. The radar is overheating, the cure could make the aircraft too heavy and the cost so far is believed to have gone up from £450m to £1 billion.

But this is said to be 1985-86's problem. The current "house keeping" measures that will save tens of millions here and there are expected to balance the books for 1984-85.

This suggests that the RAF has had to adjust its budget this year by no more than one or two per cent.

LIQUEFACTION
PLANT GRANT
OF £4.8m

The EEC is to grant £4.8 million towards the cost of a new coal liquefaction plant planned for Point of Air, North Wales, Mr DAVID HUNT, Energy Under-Secretary, announced in the Commons yesterday.

The National Coal Board expected to begin construction work on the project early in the New Year, he told MPs at Question Time.

Mr ALEXANDER EADIE, Opposition Energy Spokesman, accusing the Government of having "fiddled around" with the liquefaction scheme for five-and-a-half years, dismissed the project as a "glorified laboratory scheme on a colliery site."

'AVOID TAX IF YOU
CAN' SAYS PEER

One should pay one's taxes but one should not pay more in taxes than one can reasonably avoid, said the Earl of GOWRIE, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, in a Question Time exchange on Capital Transfer Tax in the Lords yesterday.

GIRLS LURED TO SEX TRAP IN CAR

A MAN and woman yesterday admitted luring young girls to their car and subjecting them to sexual attacks.

SUSAN JONES, 36, a divorcee, drove her Datsun with next-door neighbour boyfriend, EDWARD BURKE, 34, hiding in the back seat. She offered late night lifts to unsuspecting young women.

One 15-year-old was kidnapped and subjected to a two-hour ordeal of rape and indecency, said Mr GARETH WILLIAMS, Q.C., prosecuting at Cardiff Crown Court.

Bit hand

A week earlier, an 18-year-old girl trapped in the same way managed to get away after biting Burke's hand as he grabbed her from behind.

Burke and Jones, of Cae Mawr Gardens, Porth Rhondda Valley, pleaded guilty to taking away a 15-year-old with intent to have unlawful sex. Burke admitted rape and Jones aiding and abetting.

Mr GERRARD ELIAS, Q.C. defending, said the offences grew out of a fantasy relationship between the couple but tragically the fantasy fuelled by drink, had turned to reality.

Mr Justice MANSJONES adjourned sentence until today.

PARDONS FOR 5
DRINK-DRIVERS

Free pardons have been granted to five motorists who were wrongly convicted by the evidence of the Lion Intoximeter breath test machine, and a further eight are waiting to have free pardons ratified. Mr David Mellor, Home Office junior minister, said in a Commons written reply yesterday.

The cases occurred before the option of an alternative blood/urine test for borderline drink drive suspects was introduced.

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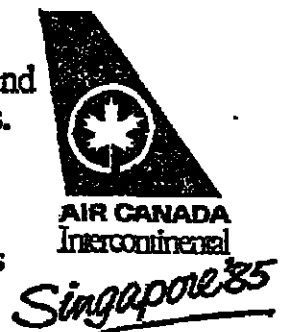
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Forest pervert told police 'I've wanted to kill myself every day when I've woken up'

HANG ME, SAID MARIE PAYNE'S MURDERER

By IAN HENRY Old Bailey Correspondent

COLIN EVANS, the 45-year-old pervert who abducted and killed four-year-old Marie Payne carried out a carbon copy, though, not fatal attack, on children 18 years ago, said Mr Allan Green, prosecuting, at the Old Bailey yesterday.

Unlike the events of 1966, when he returned the children to their homes after assaulting them in Hainault forest, Evans this time killed little Marie as she screamed and tried to run away.

Evans, after sexually abusing Marie, killed her with a blow to the head with a tree branch, and then buried the body under a blanket of leaves.

He returned to the spot two days later, exhumed the body, mutilated it with a piece of wood, photographed it and buried it in a shallow grave.

Wearing a dark grey suit and white open necked shirt, Evans, of Russell Street, Reading, showed no sign of emotion as he was sentenced to serve not less than 30 years.

Mr Justice Kenneth Jones told him: "I regard you as an evil, dangerous and unfeeling man, and as long as you are at large there is always the danger you will murder again in pursuit of your sordid perversions."

Mr Richard Du Cann, Q.C., defending, had appealed that the "door to his natural life should not appear to be permanently slammed" by the imposition of a recommendation for too long a sentence.

But as Evans was led to the cells to begin a lifetime's sentence of segregation from other prisoners, Marie's grandmother Mrs Alice Sullivan shouted from the back of the court: "Dirty beast, it was a wicked thing to do."

Evans pleaded guilty to the murder of Marie in March, 1983, and also to three charges of child stealing involving two incidents on the same day in May of this year.

It was his desperate attempts in May to abduct other children that led to his capture and the discovery of Marie's body in a shallow grave in Epping Forest.

An Ilford father whose children were dragged off by Evans managed to rescue them, and took down the registration number of Evans's car.

The number, with two wrong digits were flashed to Edinburgh, where detectives are still hunting the killer of five-year-old Caroline Hogg, and an alert officer, Pc Baxter McPherson, promptly rearranged the numbers and led police to Evans.

Mr Green, prosecuting, said the police searched Evans's flat in Russell Street, Reading. They found children's books and, hidden in the back of a radio gram under the turntable, were two wigs.

'I have not had proper treatment'

Police also found a carrier bag containing eight sets of photographs. Also discovered was a piece of sharpened wood. "The photographs were indecent photographs of young girls," said Mr Green. The photographs included some of Marie Payne.

When interviewed at Reading police station, Evans told police that, having killed Marie on Friday, he buried her, went away and returned on the Sunday to the forest, retrieved her body and took obscene photographs.

Chief Supt David Little, asked Evans to take police to where she was buried. Evans replied: "I really do not know what to do."

The officer pointed out that both of them had families and Evans must know what Marie's family was going through.

Evans replied: "Mr Little, you will now know what has been going through my mind. I have not thought about anything else. I have wanted to kill myself every day when I have woken up. Could you take me inside and hang me?"

Told that was not possible Evans went on: "It was not all my fault. I have not had proper treatment to stop me. I have days when I cannot stop myself doing these things. It frightens me."

He then gave an account of the killing, said Mr Green. He said he had travelled to visit someone who was out. He then drove to Dagenham and bought a pie and chips.

While he was eating them in his car, "I saw the little girl coming along the road with a dog."

He got out, made a fuss of the dog and started talking to

the girl. He invited her to go for a ride. She got in willingly and he drove to Epping Forest with the girl in the back seat "chatting away quite happily."

He walked into the forest for about a quarter of a mile with the girl. They walked to a fallen tree trunk where he started to touch her.

"She objected a little but then made no more fuss," Evans told police. He encouraged her to take off her clothes and helped her. He said he was touching her, talking and chatting to her at that time.

"Then she decided she wanted to go back home for some sweets. I told her 'Later.'"

"She started to cry. I tried to placate her but she started shouting and screaming — I panicked."

Mr Green said Evans then told how he had picked up a heavy branch and hit her with it. "I shan't ever forget that — I see myself doing it still. It knocked her out as it was quite a heavy piece of wood. Her head was bleeding."

Evans said that in panic he returned to his car. "I got my spade from it which I used for the allotment."

"When I went back the girl was making gurgling noises. I realised she was dead. I was in a flap. I was going to bury her."

When asked if he would have buried her alive, Evans replied: "I do not know what I was going to do at that time — but in the cold light of day, no."

'Inside, I am like a boiling volcano'

After a break in the interview, Evans told police: "It's not much but it's relevant. On Friday, I buried her in leaves and dead branches to stop animals clawing them off."

"I returned on Sunday afternoon. That's when the photographs were taken. I put her clothes in a tree trunk and cut the shoulder straps of her vest with a penknife."

When spoken to by police he had shown little remorse or concern about what he had done. He said he found it difficult outwardly to show emotion.

"Inside, I am like a boiling volcano, torn apart by grief, desperately sorry for what has happened. I would do anything to put it right."

For the 14 months since Marie's death he had been "too scared to talk and admit it to anyone." He was sorry for Marie's parents.

Turning to the three child stealing cases, Mr Green said Evans went to Ilford wearing his wig and had his camera with him.

He later told police: "Thank God nothing came of my activities."

Asked if the children would have suffered the same fate as Marie, Evans replied: "I don't know what was in my mind but I don't think it would have gone as far as that."

'Massive defect of nature'

He said he did not know when he was going to have "bad days" but most times he could control his feelings.

Outlining Evans' previous convictions, Det Chief Supt Little said that in December 1966, at the Old Bailey, Evans was fined for indecently assaulting a girl of two, a boy of three and for child stealing.

He had taken the children from a spot near Marie's home to Hainault Forest and indecently assaulted them.

In 1970, at Essex Quarter Sessions, he was jailed for a total of 10 years for a series of indecent assaults on young children in a park.

In July 1978, at Reading Crown Court, he was jailed for three years for indecently assaulting a nine-year-old spastic girl.

In November 1980, he was jailed for six months for indecently assaulting girls of 12.

In 1983 Evans had been booked over for conduct likely to cause a breach of the peace, having apparently written to the parents of children he had assaulted.

Mr Richard Du Cann, Q.C., defending, said: "It will be obvious to anybody listening to these dreadful facts that the defendant suffers from a massive defect of nature which, as he has said, on a number of occasions has become uncontrollable."

Evans was an intelligent man. When sentenced in 1970 to 10 years, he thought he would at last receive some treatment to help him combat or even rectify that defect.

"He cannot do it on his own," said Mr Du Cann. "He needs substantial and sustained help if anything is to be done."

Evans was jailed for life, with a recommendation from the judge that he should serve at least 30 years.



Colin Evans: "An evil, dangerous and unfeeling man."

The babysitter recruit in a catalogue of blunders

AN alarming catalogue of complacency allowed Colin Evans, son of a former Essex County cricketer, to become the most sadistic child killer since the notorious moors murderers, Ian Brady and Myra Hindley.

The scandal of events leading up to Marie Payne's daylight abduction and death at the hands of a known pervert are bound to lead to demands for a full public inquiry.

And the roles played by prison medical authorities, the police and the probation and social services will come under close scrutiny by any inquiry.

Evans, divorced, with a 17-year-old daughter, was born and brought up in Barking, close to Marie's Dagenham home.

He was aware of his own perversions at least 14 years ago, but an apparent mix-up by prison doctors meant he never received the "essential" treatment he needed to dampen his sexual desires.

Three fronts

He was released without positive treatment five years later, and after a further seven years, with more child sex abuses to his name, he was amazingly recruited by Berkshire social service as a babysitter.

Evans abducted Marie just four months after he was acquitted of abusing two of the children in his official care at Reading.

Police have also braced themselves for criticism on

three fronts over their failure to capture Evans earlier.

Det. Chief Supt David Little, who led the Scotland Yard inquiry, yesterday defended what he described as "criticism in hindsight" of the police failure to capture Evans.

Describing Evans as one of the 10,000 in Britain with convictions for child sex convictions, Mr Little revealed that one of their errors was in disregarding the "long voice in the wilderness."

Mr Harry Hatton, an 85-year-old retired Merchant Navy seaman, told police at an early stage of their inquiry that at the time of Marie's early afternoon disappearance he saw a man in a yellow car eating fish and chips outside his home, just three doors away from where Marie's parents lived.

When finally captured Evans told police that before he abducted Marie and drove her off in his velour Avenger car he had bought fish and chips after visiting his mother.

On the other hand, said Mr Little, there were 10 other witnesses who said Marie was alive in that area at various times between two and five that afternoon.

The main lesson to be learned, according to Mr Little, was to "never ignore the lone voice in the wilderness. He was only one man who had seen Evans, but I chose to ignore him against the word of 19 others."

Defending the fact that Evans had not been detected through routine cross checks, Mr Little pointed out that although he had been convicted of an almost identical, though not fatal, offence in Barking nearly 20 years ago, a new system collating local offenders had not been introduced until the following year, 1967.

Assaults at 26

"Unfortunately for us that conviction of his was one year too soon."

A third criticism of the investigation is that during a search of Epping Forest after Marie's clothing was found, the police failed, even with helicopter heat seeking equipment, to detect her shallow grave.

To that criticism Mr Little admitted they had searched the area, 250 yards from the tree where Marie's clothing was discovered.

"But there was no mound of earth or anything. It would have been impossible to find her without using trained dog sniffers."

It had taken three weeks to search a 100 yards radius of the tree, so they did not continue any further.

Evans, a former driving instructor, bus driver, petrol station attendant, and latterly lorry driver, first came to the notice of police in 1966, when at the age of 26 he was fined by magistrates for indecent assaults on a two-year-old boy and three-year-old girl.

After serving three jail terms for child offences he earned the sympathy of a senior Reading probation officer, Mr Peter Southerton.

Mr Southerton was deputy chairman of the Reading branch of Toc H, the Christian charity organisation, and introduced Evans as a member. On his release from the six-month sentence in January, 1981 to turned to Toc H for help.

They were sympathetic to him, and in April gave him the position of Job Master, with the responsibility for finding work for members of the branch and organising manpower.

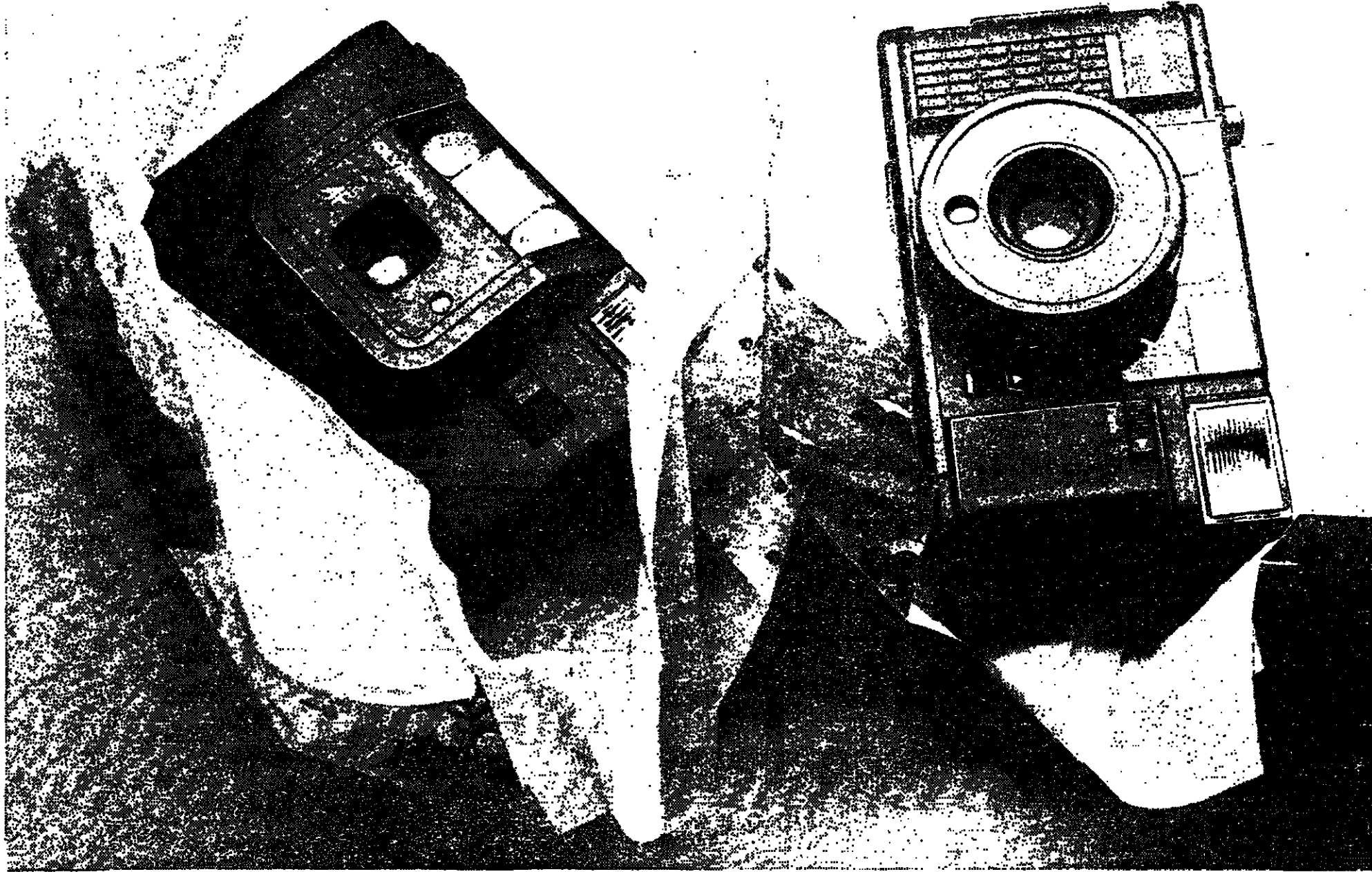
The branch obtained much of its work from Reading Social Services Department, and Evans was introduced to social worker Mrs Brenda Ryan, who was acting as liaison officer between her department and Toc H.

Job as babysitter

Early in 1982 Mrs Ryan, through another social worker, heard of a family in Reading needing help with babysitting for their three young daughters, aged five, three and two. During February and March, Evans babysat for the family on a regular basis.

The arrangement was ended because of the family's lack of money, but Evans asked if he could continue to take the eldest girl on local outings. When police spotted him with the girl in his car, medical examinations indicated that two of the girls had been interviewed with.

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REBEL BRITAIN DEFIES EEC ON MILK 'FINES'

By GODFREY BROWN Agriculture Correspondent

BRITAIN yesterday defied the Common Market Commission in Brussels and announced it would not be collecting or handing over to Brussels any penal "super-levy" due on excess milk production.

The first instalment of the levy by countries whose dairy farmers had outstripped their limit on production should have been paid by last Saturday.

£14m DRIVE TO PUT FISH ON MENU

By Our Agriculture Correspondent

THE EEC has given qualified backing to Government plans to pump £7,900,000 of taxpayers' money into a £14,000,000 campaign to encourage fish-eating in Britain. It was announced in the Commons last night.

The campaign to boost, with Government support, the fish-eating habit in Britain, was announced last May. It ran into opposition in Brussels, which sought more information and held up the scheme meanwhile.

But in a Commons written reply last night Mr John MacGregor, Minister of State for Agriculture and Fisheries, announced that the EEC had approved more than three-quarters of the programme proposed by the Sea Fish Industry Authority.

The Authority is a quango formed in 1981 to improve the marketing of fish, administer grants and loans, and carry out research into fishing methods and fish farming. It is financed by a levy on fish catches.

'Very good news'

Mr MacGregor said the EEC decision meant the Authority would be able to press ahead with its campaign to improve the marketing of fish in Britain.

"This is very good news indeed," he said. "The Authority can now start its multi-million pound campaign to get fish on the menu."

Meanwhile Common Market grants totalling nearly £2,700,000, mainly for building and modernising inshore fishing vessels, have been awarded to 59 separate projects in Britain, it was announced by the Ministry yesterday.

Scotland gets the lion's share of the EEC grants, with £1,990,000 for 35 projects, followed by England with £465,000 for 18 projects. Northern Ireland gets £203,000 for five projects, and Wales gets just over £33,000 for modernising a fishing vessel at Holyhead.



Greenland's EEC exit snagged

By ALAN OSBORN
Common Market
Correspondent

GREENLAND'S move to become the first territory to leave the EEC has encountered a snag.

Denmark, seeking the secession on behalf of her province, was told yesterday that at least three of the member countries—France, Italy, and Ireland—have still failed to ratify the EEC treaty amendment permitting Greenland to leave.

The 50,000 Greenlanders voted by about 53 to 47 per cent in a referendum in 1982 to leave the Community. They set Jan. 1 1985, as the target date for withdrawal.

Irish adjournment

It now appears that France, Italy, and others, where approval is still unclear, will probably be able to complete the treaty changes by the New Year, leaving only Ireland as the "odd man out."

Irish officials said this resulted less from any opposition to the move than from the fact that the Irish Parliament had adjourned until 1985.

The impression is that an interim deal will be put together by Ministers of the Ten over the next few days so as to allow Greenlanders their celebration on New Year's Day.

The two outstanding problems are the compensation to be paid to Greenland for fishing rights in her waters after she leaves the EEC and the legal aspects of excluding Greenland from the Community's customs regime.

It is expected that each of the 50,000 Greenlanders would effectively get £300 from the EEC in exchange for the right to fish next year.

EEC split on aid to steel

By Our Common Market Correspondent

COMMON MARKET Ministers were split yesterday on the question of continuing aids for the steel industry, and they put off all important decisions until the New Year.

The effect may be a temporary suspension of production aids to the steel industries in member countries until the Ministers meet again in mid-January.

Mr Norman Lamont, Junior Industry Minister, described yesterday's session as a "holding meeting." He said some members wanted to increase their State aid to the industry beyond what had already been agreed.

This was strongly opposed by Britain, but he said there might be scope for re-allocating aid within the overall limits.

Mr Lamont added that all 10 EEC countries agreed state aids to steel should finally halt at the end of 1985. France, Italy, Belgium and Luxembourg have sought an extension and increase of aids into 1985.

EEC foreign ministers also began tackling yesterday the terms to offer Spain and Portugal for entry into the EEC following the breakthrough on specific difficult subjects like wine and fisheries reached at the Dublin summit meeting two weeks ago.

The Ministers soon adjourned and are to return to the subject today.

SEMINARY FOR POLISH BAPTISTS

By Our Churches Correspondent

POLAND'S growing Baptist Church is to build a new seminary at Radosc, 12 miles east of Warsaw, next year.

After 40 years of uncertainty about ownership of the land because documents were lost during the 1939-45 War and 12 years of negotiations, the President of Warsaw City Council has confirmed Baptist entitlement to the site.

'Star Wars' strategy still undecided in U.S.

By RICHARD BEESTON in Washington

THE American negotiating position on space weapons, including anti-satellite weapons and system, is still to be decided.

Some tough decisions will be needed before the arms negotiations next month in Geneva.

Mr George Shultz, Secretary of State, is reported to want to show some flexibility in addressing Moscow concerns over a new arms race in space.

But one of the Administration's chief arms negotiators, Gen. Edward Rowley, was quoted yesterday as stating that the United States should offer no new proposals but wait for Moscow to make the first move.

One possible compromise that may be offered to the Russians is a moratorium on the development and testing of anti-satellite weapons—a technology in which America is about to overtake the Soviet Union.

The United States is now ready to try out the newest satellite-killers, but the "Star Wars" project is still only in the research stage.

'Moral obligation'

"I don't know quite how you bargain about a research programme," Mr Shultz told NATO allies in Brussels last week, "but you can certainly talk about it."

Mrs Thatcher in her meeting with President Reagan at Camp David on Saturday will certainly convey the expressions of concern "Star Wars" programme inside and outside the Administration, since it was announced by President Reagan on March 23, 1983.

Last week the Soviet newspaper Izvestia said Mr Reagan's "Star Wars" programme displayed an attitude that "whoever controls space controls the world."

President Reagan believes the United States has a "moral obligation" to develop a "Star Wars" anti-missile defence technology and intends to try to persuade the Soviet Union the system holds out the prospect of greater nuclear stability.

But "Star Wars" or the Strategic Defence Initiative as it is officially known, has become highly controversial, both inside and outside the Administration, since it was announced by President Reagan on March 23, 1983.

The Administration has increased the budget for research on a defensive missile system by \$250 million (£209 million) to \$1.17 billion (£982 million) in the coming fiscal year.

The Administration now says its provisions spending about \$26 billion (£21 billion) in the first instalment of research and development over the next four years.

The SDI is a research programme for a non-nuclear defence system dependent on an array of sensors and other short-range energy devices to shoot down Soviet nuclear missiles in space. The anti-satellite system is also non-nuclear, involving missiles with conventional warheads launched from F-15 jet aircraft.

The "Russians have charged that "Star Wars" shows an intention by the Administration to violate a 1972 treaty signed by America and the Soviet Union prohibiting anti-satellite missile defence. The Administration says research is permitted in the treaty.

Opponents of the scheme say the defensive system would make nuclear war more likely and accelerate the arms race.

Mr Reagan in his "Star Wars" speech called on scientists to find "the means of rendering nuclear weapons impotent and obsolete" by destroying missiles "before they reached our own soil or that of our allies."

Four arms-control experts from earlier Administrations declared last month that there was no hope that "Star Wars" can make nuclear weapons obsolete.

The former Defence Secretary Robert McNamara, National Security Adviser Mr McGeorge Bundy, Soviet expert George Kennan and arms negotiator Mr Gerard Smith concluded that even if "Star Wars" proved 95 per cent effective, with 10,000 strategic warheads

PREMIER'S HIDDEN INCOME

By TONY ALLEN-MILLS
in New York

SIR LYNDEN PINDLING, Prime Minister of the Bahamas, escaped major blame when a Royal Commission report on corruption, money laundering and drug smuggling in the islands was published yesterday.

But the report still found that his expenditure in recent years had far exceeded his income.

Sir Lynden had been accused of a central role in a network of corruption that last October led to the biggest Government shake-up of his 17 years in office—three Ministers resigned and two were sacked.

After a year of hearings the panel of three commissioners, led by Sir James Smith, a former Supreme Court justice, concluded that drug payoffs and money laundering reached the highest levels of the islands' Government.

But the report said it was unable to confirm allegations that Sir Lynden took bribes from American drug smugglers using the Bahamas to ship drugs to the continent.

Unexplained £192,000

"It was apparent that the Prime Minister's expenditure over the years from 1977 has far exceeded his income," two of the commissioners wrote in the majority report.

They said they had been unable to obtain explanations for deposits worth £192,000 to Sir Lynden's account. Despite this, "none of the known sources of funds made available to him appear to have been drug related."

In a dissenting note, the third commissioner, Bishop Brexell Gomez, criticised the veteran Prime Minister for "lack of prudence."

"It is certainly feasible that all of these payments could have been made from non-drug-related sources. But in my opinion the circumstances raise great suspicion and I find it impossible to say that the payments were all non-drug related," the Bishop wrote.

Smuggler's tale

A Boston drug smuggler, who gave evidence to the commission, claimed to have witnessed a \$55,000 pay-off to Sir Lynden from Robert Vesco, the American fugitive financier.

But the commissioners decided they could not believe the smuggler's story for lack of corroborative evidence.

Opposition leaders who saw the report called for Sir Lynden's resignation on the grounds that "even if he did not do these things directly, the fact is they have been occurring and he is responsible."

But Sir Lynden, who throughout the affair had portrayed himself as a victim of a conspiracy by his political enemies, has shown no signs of stepping down.

Some observers believe he may soon call elections to prevent Parliament from discussing the report. Under Bahamas procedures a newly elected Parliament may not discuss business left unfinished by the previous MPs.

MOSCOW MENDS TOKYO FENCES

By NIGEL WADE in Moscow

A significant rapprochement between Moscow and the most important non-ruling Communist party in Asia took place in the Kremlin yesterday when President Chernenko received Mr Kenji Miyamoto, chairman of the Communist party of Japan.

It was the first meeting between Japanese and Soviet party leaders since Mr Miyamoto had talks with President Brezhnev in Moscow in December, 1979. The Japanese delegation was enraged and gravely embarrassed by the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan.

Western banks are growing fonder of aiding East bloc

By ANNE SECALL Banking Correspondent

THERE are signs of a major thaw in the attitude of Western banks to providing credits for Eastern Europe after a freeze lasting nearly three years.

Leading London bankers claim that lending to Comecon countries is back in style.

And this is demonstrated by the huge success of both Russia and Hungary in raising large amounts of new money in Western capital markets.

More recently representatives of Hungary's National Bank travelled to London for the signing of a \$300 million (£250 million) Euroloan. The loan had been increased from the \$250 million (£210 million) originally sought because of the enthusiasm of lending banks.

Dr Janos Fekete, vice-president of the National Bank, said that Hungary had managed to raise more than \$1 billion (£850 million) from Western commercial banks so far this year—more than it needed. He hinted that further large loans are planned.

Nat West key role

National Westminster, one of the Big Four banks, has played a key role in promoting the return of Eastern European borrowers to Western capital markets.

A spokesman for NatWest said that the latest Hungarian loan was likely to be followed by a big loan for East Germany.

If that works, other countries like Rumania will probably be tempted to raise funds in the West next year, NatWest believes.

Western banks clamped down on loans to Eastern Europe after the Polish debts crisis in the Spring of 1981. Before that, they had already become wary of increased lending to Russia following the invasion of Afghanistan in 1979.

The Polish debts crisis came as a big shock to Western

banks as Poland was the first major debtor nation to default on its international obligations. Banks had lent heavily to Poland in the 1970s and were owed roughly £12 billion when Poland announced it could no longer afford to pay them back.

Banks were particularly upset by the failure of the "umbrella theory" whereby they had assumed that Russia would step in and prevent any member of the Comecon block from defaulting on its debts.

The Polish debt debacle was followed in quick succession by debt crises in Rumania and Yugoslavia, forcing both countries to follow Poland in seeking the rescheduling of their initial debts. Between them, these countries rescheduled more than £20 billion worth of debts.

But banks now say they are impressed with the efforts made by Eastern European countries to overcome the impact of the world recession and get their finances back in order. Hungary is particularly admired because it has managed to pay its way throughout the worst of the recession and has built up its hard currency reserves to around \$2 billion (£1.6 billion) from a low of \$300 million (£250 million) in 1982.

Even Poland, whose economy is still badly bruised, has won the respect of bankers by meeting its interest obligations fully.

Eastern Europe's problems have paled by comparison with those encountered by banks in Latin America where just one borrower, Mexico, has asked the whole Comecon block.

Banks have also found that they have had to lend their Latin American customers extra money simply to receive interest on past loans, whereas in Eastern Europe interest has been paid out of the debtor country's own resources.

Afghan deserter will return to Russia

By RICHARD BEESTON in Washington

STATE Department officials yesterday interviewed a Soviet soldier who defected from Afghanistan and now wants to return to Russia. They determined that he had made his decision "freely and voluntarily."

The soldier, Nikolai Ryzhkov, 20, deserted a year ago and later denounced his country for waging a "dirty war" against the Afghan people.

A Soviet Embassy official said yesterday that Pte Ryzhkov had contacted the Russian Embassy and asked them to arrange for his return home. "He is a Soviet citizen and he wants to go back home. It was his personal decision."

"He came to us several days ago. It's his decision to go home and he will go home."

Smuggled to Europe

Pte Ryzhkov slipped away from a Russian military construction unit in June, 1983, and contacted anti-Soviet Afghan resistance fighters in Kabul. He was hidden by them for several months before being smuggled to Europe.

He later told a news conference that many Soviet draftees serving in Afghanistan were ill-prepared, both politically and sometimes militarily, and had become demoralised about their country's chances of success.

"We were told he would be coming to the southern border of the Soviet Union and would be facing American and Chinese mercenaries," he said at the time. He added: "When I arrived my opinion changed."

"I didn't want to be part of that 'dirty war' and that is why I deserted," Pte Ryzhkov had three months of military service to complete before being sent to Afghanistan.

LORRY DRIVERS BLOCK FRONTIER

By Our Geneva Correspondent

French and Swiss lorry drivers joined hands yesterday to protest against Switzerland introducing a motorway tax on heavy vehicles on Jan. 1. They blocked most crossing points on the Franco-Swiss frontier between Geneva and Basle for 24 hours.

Little or no action was reported on the Swiss frontiers with Austria. But trouble had been pending. Governments are pressing Switzerland and threatening to introduce counter-taxes against Swiss lorries and buses.

BRAZIL FLOODS

Heavy rain and flooding in Brazil's south-eastern Minas Gerais State killed 11 people, eight of them children, and left at least 2,500 homeless over the weekend, a fire brigade spokesman said yesterday in Rio de Janeiro. —Renter.

TWENTY YEARS OF CARTOONS by GARLAND

A selection that illustrates the qualities that have won Garland the respect of Fleet Street and the affection of a politically wide-ranging readership.

Available through leading bookshops, the Telegraph bookshop at 130, Fleet Street, price £4.95, or by post, London, EC4. (Please add 55p postage & packing).



Royal Society Esso Energy Award 1985

The Award is intended to promote the more efficient use of all existing energy sources and to stimulate the development of new energy resources at a time of rising costs. Previous awards have been made for work in the following areas: improvements in efficiency in power stations; optimum start and shut-down times for heating systems; solar energy utilisation; the application of gas turbines to total energy systems; heat exchanger networks in industrial processes; a co-ordinated traffic signals system; a recuperative burner system for gas-fired furnaces and a new fuel-saving compound for motor vehicle tyres.

The Royal Society Esso Energy Award was instituted in 1974 and consists of a gold medal and a prize of £2,000. It is awarded for outstanding contributions to the advance of science, engineering and technology leading to the more efficient mobilisation, use or conservation of energy resources.

Nominations for the Award are required by the 25th January 1985. For further details, please contact: The Executive Secretary, (Ref. PRC) The Royal Society, 6 Carlton House Terrace, London, SW1Y 5AG.

SALE TEAMS IN PEKING FEEL SIBERIA WINDS

By RUGH DAVIES in Peking

AN icy wind from Siberia cut through the streets of Peking yesterday as British businessmen contemplated yet another cold and exceptionally hard sales day.

All are hopeful that Mrs Thatcher's signature on the Hongkong declaration tomorrow will ease their uphill task of securing a profitable investment in China.

But the signs are that the Chinese, notoriously hard-nosed in all dealings and especially the Hongkong negotiations, are still shopping around for bargain-basement prices on foreign technology and expertise.

The British are also hampered by the apparent naïveté of competitors such as the Americans, who seemed to be overawed by the prospect of the vast China market and are making what seem to be ridiculous deals.

One United States firm is reported to have offered discounts which even surprised the Chinese. However, the Americans seem to feel that it is vital to get a toe-hold in China at any cost.

'Enormous potential'
As one machinery salesman from New Jersey commented, "the potential is just enormous."

High-powered sales teams currently visiting Peking include experts from British Airways seeking to sell all aspects of airline management from helicopter sales to computer software and booking flights.

Mr Howard Phelps, director of B.A.'s operations, said Shen Tu, director of the Chinese airline C.A.C., had struck an optimistic note for further co-operation. He added that B.A. was open to ideas including joint ventures with the Chinese.

British Aerospace is hotly tipped to sell its new medium-sized BAe 146 jet to replace ageing Antonov turboprops flown by C.A.C.

The sales pitch included a red carpet tour by the plane of 30 cities in China including Lhasa, the Tibetan capital.

And the firm advertised itself heavily at a recent Peking aviation exhibition with officials passing to eager hands a specially produced four-page leaflet on aircraft in Chinese.

Negotiations seem to be going well but have become

protracted with reports circulating in Peking that the Chinese want the company to shave at least a million dollars off the plane's \$15 million U.S. price tag.

China is said to be using the argument that a well-known United States firm seems to be willing to slash their prices by even larger amounts.

On a more positive note Mr Jeremy Thomas, a British film maker who produced "Merry Christmas" Mr Lawrence starring David Bowie and Tom Conti, is finalising details in Peking of an epic to be shot in China on the life of Pu Yi, the last emperor.

He said yesterday: "It will be on the scale of 'Gandhi' and the Chinese, who have been most helpful, are allowing us to film all over the country."

A leading British actor is to take the main role and the film, costing \$20 million, is being directed by Bernardo Bertolucci, who directed "Last Tango in Paris."

Pu Yi ascended the throne at the age of three and died of cancer at 61 as chief gardener in Peking's botanical gardens.

'Two years of chaos'

Meanwhile, the Chinese media continued its optimistic tone over Hongkong, with the New China News Agency saying that the Sino-British pact had put an end to "two years of chaos" in the colony's stock market.

A commentary said that most residents regarded the settlement as better than expected. With "worries gradually removed" they were now "more confident" of Hongkong's future.

The colony's Hang Seng Index jumped 24.33 points to 1166.65 yesterday as stocks were snapped up by investors anticipating new highs with Mrs Thatcher's trip.

The market was also helped by a fresh injection of confidence into the property market, with the \$400 million sterling sale of a development project.



Chinese soldiers on special fatigues in Peking—sweeping the snow from the entrance to the Great Hall of the People in preparation for Mrs Thatcher's arrival today.

Judge throws out 'vindictive' Packer action

By DENIS WARNER in Melbourne

THE Supreme Court in New South Wales yesterday dismissed as an "abuse of process" proceedings for defamation by Mr Kerry Packer, the media magnate and World Series cricket promoter, against Mr Douglas Meagher, Q.C., the counsel who assisted the Costigan Royal Commission into organised crime.

Mr Justice Hunt said it could be clearly inferred that the main reason Mr Packer had brought the action was to

investigate the conduct of the Royal Commission.

That was not a purpose for which defamation proceedings were designed or existed, Mr Meagher, he said, had successfully called Mr Packer's bluff.

Mr Packer issued a statement of claim early last week against Mr Meagher for on-specification damages, alleging he was responsible for leaking summaries of the Costigan Royal Commission report to the NATIONAL TIMES, a Fairfax weekly published in Sydney.

Two days later Mr Meagher served Mr Packer's solicitors with an affidavit denying the allegations.

This led Mr Packer to seek to discontinue the defamation action. Notice of discontinuance was lodged in the New South Wales Supreme Court last Friday.

Counsel for Mr Meagher argued that the notice of discontinuance should be struck out and the proceedings should be dismissed as an abuse of the court process.

Mr Justice Hunt, in his judgment yesterday, said Mr

Packer's notice of discontinuance had been filed as soon as he had been asked for particulars of his claim. It seemed to have been meant to prevent Mr Meagher from forcing Mr Packer to substantiate his allegations.

"All of these circumstances suggest to me very strongly that there may indeed have been a vindictive desire on the part of the plaintiff to make the defendant as uncomfortable as possible for as long as possible, to punish him for his part in the compilation of the report of the Royal Commission," said the judge.

Mitterrand fights to regain support of voters

By MICHAEL FIELD in Paris

WITH the popularity of President Mitterrand and his government at a dangerously low point, party leaders have launched a campaign to regain lost support.

They hope to do so in time to fend off a disaster in the Parliamentary elections of 1986.

M. Mitterrand, who last Sunday set his foreign policy record straight in an hour-long television interview, said he would broadcast again during January on domestic affairs.

Rhetoric change

He seems to have accepted advice that he should concentrate more on home affairs such as the state of the economy, unemployment and what he calls "the defence of the least favoured classes against the oppression of poverty."

M. Laurent Fabius, the Prime Minister, who made a weekend fighting speech at a Socialist party convention in Evry, held to discuss "modernisation," is expected to convert some anti-right-wing rhetoric into acts.

His first move will be to announce a national training

programme in January aimed at reconciling modernisation with solving the employment problems caused by making firms more economic and productive.

The first practical test for the Socialists will be to try and run a successful campaign for the cantonal elections in March. These important local government polls are seen as a kind of dress rehearsal for the 1986 general election.

"Progress versus reaction" is to be the theme, underlined last Sunday by M. Fabius in his invitation to M. Chirac and M. Barre, his Rightwing predecessors in the Premiership, to debate things with him separately on television.

The party rank and file are not convinced that the Government's thesis that Socialist management will, in the long run, be the best propaganda.

SKI 'CATASTROPHE'

Only 29 of 150 Swiss ski resorts were open for business by mid-December because of a lack of snow, a spokesman for the Swiss national tourist office said yesterday. He described the situation as "catastrophic."

Tamils appeal to U.N. over troop 'atrocities'

By DAVID GRAVES in Jaffna, Sri Lanka

THE Jaffna Citizens' Committee, an umbrella group of professional Tamils in the troubled north of Sri Lanka, appealed yesterday for the United Nations and International Red Cross to prevent further "atrocities" by Government troops.



Mr Ramalingam Balasubramaniam, a lawyer and committee secretary, said: "We must be protected to prevent further massacres by troops."

He alleged a further 63 innocent civilians had been killed by soldiers last month during search-and-arrest operations in the northern peninsula in which at least 1,200 men, mostly aged between 18 and 30, had been detained.

The Government in Colombo has consistently maintained that the only civilians killed were those caught in crossfire between troops and Tamil rebels fighting for a separate State in the north and east of Sri Lanka.

Mr Balasubramaniam claimed more than 200 civilians had been massacred this year in the Jaffna peninsula.

"The Government is supposed to defend us, yet the Army is killing us," he said. "We need impartial observers to tell the world what is happening."

'Wife raped'

The Government has admitted that 725 people, whom it described as terrorists, suspects, had been initially detained last week during two round-the-clock curfews totalling 105 hours.

The Citizens' Committee secretary counter-claimed: "The Army has been simply rounding up every male aged between 18 and 30."

Anxious parents clustered outside Mr Balasubramaniam's home with letters from their sons' employers guaranteeing their identity, so he could pass them on to the Government Agent in Jaffna to plead for their release.

As they milled around him a woman aged 22 arrived, eight months pregnant, whose husband is overseas, to complain she had been raped by a soldier at gunpoint.

Mr Balasubramaniam said: "The Army Commander tells us 'These things happen. We have black sheep among us.'"

TEACHER ACCUSED

By Our Athens Correspondent
A Greek school teacher, said to have described Eastern-bloc regimes as the "worst form of democracy" and the Berlin wall as the "wall of shame," faces disciplinary action for allegedly teaching anti-Communist propaganda.

Education Ministry sources confirmed in Athens yesterday. It is thought unlikely yesterday. It is thought unlikely yesterday. It is thought unlikely yesterday.

At least four Indian states are at least by Opposition Chief Ministers, and their requests to charter aircraft and helicopters from the state were rejected.

GLENMORANGIE

10 YEARS OLD SINGLE HIGHLAND MALT SCOTCH WHISKY



5. GEORGE MACKENZIE, one of Glenmorangie's three mashmen, bicycles through the moonlight, as mist wreathes the fields around the distillery. The lateness of the hour testifies to the constant, anxious care demanded by the sweetly pungent 'mash' - the infant whisky. While the world sleeps, George keeps watch. Not until ten years have passed - and the spirit has reached full maturity - will his vigilance achieve its true reward.

Handcrafted by the Sixteen Men of Tain.

How Whitehall decides whether local councils are on target.



Every year Whitehall sets spending targets for local authorities throughout the country.

This year, under the new ratecapping laws, these targets have become absolute spending limits for those authorities on the so-called "government hit-list."

So it is more important than ever to understand how Whitehall sets its targets in the first place.

According to the 1984 Audit Commission Report (a government document) they are based on information that is inadequate and out of date.

Which is bad enough. But matters are made worse by the fact that Whitehall sets more than one target for each authority.

There's one based on its assessment of general needs throughout the country. And another based on precedents of needs and spending in each area.

The difference between the two is often quite staggering. For example, an authority which actually underspent one target by 4 per cent were judged to be 82 per cent overspenders

against the other target.

Whitehall also has the power to put its own value on particular local needs, or to increase or decrease money allowed for exceptional cases.

So it can and does treat prosperous and poor communities differently. But not quite in the way you might expect.

For example, the biggest overspender in the country (according to government figures) is the extremely affluent City of London. Yet the City of London will not be ratecapped.

The most deprived borough in the country (again according to a government assessment) will be ratecapped.

Even though its spending plans are decidedly modest by comparison, and its needs enormous.

So Whitehall not only makes the rules, it applies them in arbitrary, inefficient and unjust ways.

And as nobody can vote out a Whitehall civil servant, the traditional democratic means of ensuring fair play no longer apply.

Ratecapping makes no sense.

Yesterday in Parliament

CHANGES IN BANKING LAW FORESHADOWED BY CHANCELLOR

By PETER PRYKE Parliamentary Correspondent

CHANGES in the law on banking supervisory arrangements were likely to follow a review established as a result of the collapse of Johnson Matthey, bankers, and of the Bank of England rescue operation, Mr LAWSON, Chancellor of the Exchequer, told the Commons yesterday.

MPs on both sides expressed concern that £75 million of public funds by way of a Bank of England indemnity should have been involved in the rescue.

There was also criticism that there should have been a public inquiry rather than an internal review.

Mr Lawson insisted that no taxpayers' money was involved and that an internal inquiry, with Treasury representation, and an independent consultant as well as the Bank of England, was the right procedure.

In a statement, Mr Lawson said it was clear that the events leading to the rescue of Johnson Matthey on Oct. 1 raised important issues about present procedures of banking supervision, and the legislative framework within which it was conducted.

Particular issues

"The Governor and I have therefore agreed to a full review of the present supervisory arrangements, and to consider whether any early changes in present supervisory procedures are needed.

"Issues to which particular attention will be given are the relationship between auditors and supervisors; staff experience and training; the handling of concentrations of risk and the assessment of quality of assets; notification and collection of statistics; and the adequacy and deployment of staff resources in the banking supervision department.

"The review will also consider whether a more effective framework is required than

that provided by the 1979 Banking Act.

Mr HATTERSLEY, Shadow Chancellor, complaining about the 10-week delay before the Government went on record about the Johnson Matthey affair, said the Chancellor's statement would intensify rather than allay fears.

In view of the reported disagreement between the Bank and the Treasury on how the matter was dealt with, the Chancellor should say whether he had personally supported the Bank in "virtually" nationalising Johnson Matthey at 9.30 p.m. on Sunday evening."

The review should include a thorough-going examination of the Banking Act 1979 and deal with the problems of early warning, and whether the Bank and the Government had been given sufficient warning of the incipient collapse.

Mr Hattersley also pointed out that the company's auditors, Arthur Young, McLellan Moors, had given a clean bill of health in June this year, and were likely to be investigated by their professional body.

The Governor of the Bank of England had said that institutions should stand or fall according to their own performance.

"Does that rule apply to companies within the City or only to manufacturing industries which are allowed to fail

by the Government, causing heavy unemployment?"

Mr LAWSON replied that the provisions of the 1979 Banking Act would be at the heart of the inquiry. "It may well be that it will be necessary to introduce certain amendments to the Act."

On the contrast with manufacturing industry, he said the shareholders of Johnson Matthey had lost three-quarters of their money, £250 million, and their entire top management from the chairman downwards had been obliged to resign.

Mr Lawson said the relationship with the auditors in this matter, and in general the relationships of auditors of banks and the supervising authority would be germane to the inquiry.

'Disturbing' events

Dr DAVID OWEN, leader of the S.D.P., said the £75 million public money because if the liability was taken up there would be a loss of dividends from the Banking Department to the Treasury.

The Chancellor should reveal his own personal involvement, as the Governor had said that he had been consulted at all stages. There should be a public inquiry as these were "very serious matters and very disturbing events in the City of London."

Mr LAWSON said: "The Governor informed me of the action he intended to take shortly before the rescue was announced. As for the funds, my approval was neither sought nor required."

There would have been no time for him to have looked into the matter at that point.

Today in Parliament

HOUSE OF LORDS

2.30: Bankruptcy (Scotland) Bill, 3rd reading; Local Government (Interim Provisions) Act 1984 (Appointed Day) Order (1985); Elections (NI) Bill, 2nd reading; Appropriation (No. 3) Northern Ireland Order, 1984; Dangerous Vessels Bill, 2nd reading.

HOUSE OF COMMONS

2.30: Debate on Estimate on Industrial Support (Dept. of Energy); Industrial Training Levy (Construction) Bill; Order: debate on EEC documents on transport measures.

MPs call for action to save ships

By WILLIAM WEEKES Parliamentary Staff

A WARNING that Britain might be left with only cruise ships and ferries by the year 2000 if the decline in the merchant fleet continued was given by Mr MICHAEL COLVIN (C., Romsey and Waterside) in the Commons yesterday.

In spite of being one of the most modern and efficient in the world, the British fleet was declining at the rate of two ships a week, which could nearly extinguish it by the end of the decade.

Opening a debate in which he called for action to help the industry survive, Mr Colvin said that in 1966 Britain had the largest merchant fleet in the world with 12½ per cent of world tonnage.

But our share of merchant shipping was now down to only three per cent and still falling fast.

The shipping industry was of critical importance in sustaining Britain's competitive performance in world markets.

It employed more than 45,000 officers, ratings and cadets in about 800 vessels, earned £3.5 billion a year and contributed a surplus of £1 billion to the balance of payments.

Vital to defence

Mr Colvin argued that the merchant fleet was not only vital to trade and commerce but also to Britain's defence.

The main underlying cause of the decline was the impracticability of trading fairly in a market which was no longer governed by economics alone, he said.

Our competitors will do anything to survive when far too many ships are chasing far too little cargo.

"It is the old case of Britain playing cricket while the rest of the world is playing karate."

His fears were echoed by Mr ROGER SCOTT, an Opposition transport spokesman, who said: "Unless we take drastic action, this once proud maritime nation

will have no merchant fleet left at all."

Mr EDWARD DU CANN (C., Taunton), chairman of the all-party Parliamentary Maritime Affairs Group, said the state of Britain's merchant navy was "horrific". Action should be taken immediately to rectify the situation.

"In 1934 there were 200,000 British men at sea in the Merchant fleet, on whom the Navy could call. Today there are a mere 45,000."

He said the Department of Transport should influence other Government Departments to stop the chartering of foreign ships.

Virtue of competition

"I certainly believe in the virtues of competition, but what our shipping companies are facing in world markets today is anything but that."

"Five European Community countries ban United Kingdom ships from their coastal waters, though their ships are not banned from ours. A further 25 nations discriminate actively against British ships."

Mr DAVID MITCHELL, Transport Under-Secretary, said the British Merchant fleet was the seventh largest in the world in spite of the decline.

The Government shared the concern at what was happening, but it was "too simplistic" to extrapolate the recent level of decline and to suggest that it was an inevitable progression which would leave nothing at all.

He promised to draw the Chancellor's attention to what had been said about the loss of British ships.

The Government would keep up constant pressure against those who sought to close markets to British shipping.

It would also ensure that sufficient vessels were available to fulfil defence requirements.

DEATHS, IN MEMORIAM

Continued from Back Page

JOHNSTON—On Dec. 16, CHURCHILL, 82, died at home, after a long illness. He was born in 1902, and was a member of the House of Commons from 1950 to 1964. He was a member of the Conservative Party, and was a member of the Cabinet from 1964 to 1970. He was a member of the House of Lords from 1970 to 1984. He was a member of the House of Commons from 1984 to 1985. He was a member of the House of Lords from 1985 to 1986. He was a member of the House of Commons from 1986 to 1987. He was a member of the House of Lords from 1987 to 1988. He was a member of the House of Commons from 1988 to 1989. He was a member of the House of Lords from 1989 to 1990. He was a member of the House of Commons from 1990 to 1991. He was a member of the House of Lords from 1991 to 1992. He was a member of the House of Commons from 1992 to 1993. He was a member of the House of Lords from 1993 to 1994. He was a member of the House of Commons from 1994 to 1995. He was a member of the House of Lords from 1995 to 1996. 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THEATRE / Feiffer's America

Stinging satire

POLITICAL satire that really stings is a rarity in our theatre. We could do with an English equivalent of the American satirist, the Lyric Studio, Mame Smith. But if its most brutal shafts are directed at the smiling influence on the USA of Ronald Reagan and his immediate predecessors, some find their sardonic target in hypocrites and anxieties much nearer home.

Adapted by Harry Dison, this quick-fire revue-without-songs dramatizes dozens of Jules Feiffer's six-frame cartoons, all of them ending in some small explosion of black laughter. Sketch after sketch encapsulates the self-conscious desperation of a civilised middle class equally dissatisfied with the rewards of the rat race, the sweets of sex, and the fatuities of social drop-outs proclaiming that if you are not part of the solution you are part of the problem.

Ed Bishop's devastating caricature of Reagan as a jerry, handsome old Prince Charming, with principles of popcorn and a vision of America as a saccharine movie, perhaps has a slight edge over Mac McDonald's Gerald Ford —

John Barber

Spike and the Babes

SPIKE MILLIGAN makes and breaks "Babes in the Wood" at Chichester Festival Theatre. He is the link between us and the semi-rehearsed proceedings on the stage. That is to say whenever something goes wrong he proves a funny, friendly, and sometimes inspired commentator.

On the other hand his spontaneous and mischievous kind of fooling can play havoc with comic discipline. As one of the robbers he steals (and sometimes kills) every scene with his gently disruptive, distancing style. Thus he becomes at once the key and the curse of this pantomime.

But one hates to think of it without him, because although he undermines his fellow actors he does create with his impulsive-seeming fancy a vitality and tension otherwise absent from these familiar routines in John Morley's time-honoured script (with a nod to Mr. Kenneth Thatcher and Tesco's). Had Dennis Ramsden's production faced up to

Eric Shorter

CONCERTS / Per Musica

IT WAS NOT just the attractively unconventional choice of programme which made so enjoyable Sunday's Queen Elizabeth Hall concert by the young and lively Per Musica chamber orchestra.

If its playing, under its slithering musical conductor Julian Reynolds, was sometimes a little unfinished, any passing flaw in the sound and texture were more than compensated for by its splendidly fresh and stimulating spirit, and the keenness of its reactions.

A cosmopolitan ensemble, with its instrumentalists coming from the Netherlands, Britain and elsewhere, it was established just over a year ago by former members of the European Community Youth Orchestra, principally for the pleasure of continuing to play together.

All are now freelance orchestral musicians who meet on an irregular basis several times a year to rehearse, tour and make music. And a vivid sense of that corporate pleasure was constantly conveyed in performances of works by Schoenberg, Mendelssohn and Stravinsky, each also owed much to their effectiveness to the clarity of the conductor's perceptions of exactly what was required by each composer.

Schoenberg's rarely played Second Chamber Symphony is a particularly difficult piece to handle, but here the first of its two movements flowed with a rich, yet lightly etched, mobility, while the scherzo-like opening section of the second was imbued with a cunningly incisive brilliance and zest.

The prowess of both players and conductor were even more tellingly displayed in Stravinsky's ballet "Pulcinella," each tableau adroitly characterised, the rhythms crisp and pungent, and with three admirable young soloists in the vocal numbers. Nor were they any less responsive to the Mendelssohn of the G minor Piano Concerto, their deftly observant accompaniment matching point for point the exhilaration and panache of the Brazilian pianist Jean-Louis Steverman.

Robert Henderson

Christodoulos Georgiades

OPPORTUNITIES are rare to hear a piece like Xenokis's "Hermia" outside the specialist avant-garde piano recital, and it was a joy to hear it at the Queen Elizabeth Hall on Sunday in the sort of context to which it, and indeed all such pieces, truly belong.

Indeed, Christodoulos Georgiades is to be congratulated for placing the work alongside Schubert, Beethoven and Chopin, not to speak of Skalkottas, and for bringing the same searching, passionately committed heart and mind to bear upon each piece.

To begin with there was Schubert's Sonata in A minor D587, and Mr Georgiades plunged immediately into its freshly original youthful world with exuberance and structural control, shaping the rhythmic outline of the first movement with the simplicity of true interpretative insight, allowing

the developing lyricism to burst forth freely.

The same sharp textural clarity was brought to three of Skalkottas's 32 Piano Pieces, the crisp neo-classic rhythms and powerful chromatic undertow richly articulated, and then there was the pianism of "Hermia," whose insane difficulties were dramatically solved in a performance of exhilarating communicativeness.

Later we heard Beethoven's Six Variations Op 34, again clearly unfolded, restrained yet expressive, and finally Chopin's Nocturne in C sharp minor and "Polonaise Fantasia." Here Mr Georgiades seemed less penetrating, allowing the latter to meander and generally underestimating the passionate forward impulse of the music but, in sum, this was an enjoyable and highly stimulating afternoon's music making.

Anthony Payne

ART GALLERIES

BARBICAN ART GALLERY, Barbican Centre, London EC2A 4PU. Tel: 01-253 2000. Thurs. until 7. 1987-88. 1. "The Art of the Book" by John D. Hunt. 2. "The Art of the Book" by John D. Hunt. 3. "The Art of the Book" by John D. Hunt. 4. "The Art of the Book" by John D. Hunt. 5. "The Art of the Book" by John D. Hunt. 6. "The Art of the Book" by John D. Hunt. 7. "The Art of the Book" by John D. Hunt. 8. "The Art of the Book" by John D. Hunt. 9. "The Art of the Book" by John D. Hunt. 10. "The Art of the Book" by John D. Hunt. 11. "The Art of the Book" by John D. Hunt. 12. "The Art of the Book" by John D. Hunt. 13. "The Art of the Book" by John D. Hunt. 14. "The Art of the Book" by John D. Hunt. 15. "The Art of the Book" by John D. Hunt. 16. "The Art of the Book" by John D. Hunt. 17. "The Art of the Book" by John D. Hunt. 18. "The Art of the Book" by John D. Hunt. 19. "The Art of the Book" by John D. Hunt. 20. "The Art of the Book" by John D. Hunt. 21. "The Art of the Book" by John D. Hunt. 22. 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COURT AND SOCIAL

Court Circular

KENSINGTON PALACE

Dec. 17.

The Duke of Gloucester, President, National Association of Boys' Clubs, this evening attended a dinner to mark the launching of the Association's Diamond Jubilee Year 1985 at the Mansion House, London. E.C.A. Sir Simon Bland was in attendance.

The Duchess of Gloucester was present this evening at the Westminster Christmas Appeal Trust's presentation of "The Story of Christmas" at St George's Church, Hanover Square, London, W.1. Sir Edward Hulse, M.P., was in attendance.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE

Dec. 17.

Princess Alexandra was present this evening at a gala

Forthcoming Marriages

Mr R. H. A. Southey and

Miss N. C. W. Jameson

The engagement is announced

between Mr. R. H. A. Southey, son of

Lieutenant Colonel P. H. J. and

Lady Anne Southey, of

Blandford Forum, Dorset, and

Miss N. C. W. Jameson, daughter of

Mr. and Mrs. J. C. S. Mott, of

London, and the Isle of Wight.

Dr. E. M. Godfrey and

Dr. E. J. Bead

The engagement is announced

between Mr. E. M. Godfrey, son of

Mr. and Mrs. J. Godfrey, of

Wimborne, Dorset, and

Dr. E. J. Bead, daughter of

Mr. and Mrs. J. Bead, of

London, and the Isle of Wight.

WEDDINGS

Mr. M. Sain and

the Hon. Harriet Lawson

The marriage took place on

Saturday at the home of Mr. and

Mrs. M. Sain, of 11, St. James's

Place, London, W.1. The bride

was given away by her father,

Mr. M. Sain, and the ceremony

was performed by the Rev. M. J.

Widdows, of St. James's Church.

A reception was held at the

home of the bride's mother, Mrs.

M. Sain, after the ceremony.

CHRISTENING

The infant daughter of Major

and Mrs. William Hurrell was

christened Flora Mary by the

Rev. Peter Jeffries at Ammerst

Church on Sunday. The god-

parents are Mrs. Michael Bun-

bury, Miss Susanna Graham,

Major Francis Grady and

Major Jeremy Grady.

SERVICE DINNER

Combined Cadet Force

Admiral Sir John Fieldhouse,

Chief of Naval Staff, was

present at the annual dinner of

the Combined Cadet Force held

at the Admiralty on Sunday. The

guests included the Hon. Lord

Widdows, the Hon. Lord

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BALANCING ACT FOR KASPAROV

By B. H. WOOD

Chess Correspondent

YET another World Chess

Championship draw

came in the 53rd game in

Moscow yesterday.

This time the agreement on

Gary Kasparov's proposal was

perfectly legitimate, the final

position offering nothing to

either player.

With his seventh move in a

Semi-Slav Defence, he seems

to have discovered (or traced

somewhere in previous play)

a complicated but safe way of

forcing a drawn game. His

position around Move 15 is

balanced on a knife-edge, but

his threat of mate by 16...Q-K8

gives a priceless tempo.

Kasparov would be happy to

draw with the black pieces, by

Anatoly Karpov is famous for

his power with the white.

Taste of victory

Many expected Karpov to

postpone last Friday's game

after the shock of his first

defeat last Wednesday. With

the announcement of the result

came the news that the game

was postponed any way, because

"the hall was not ready for

another event, arranged months

before."

Nobody expected this match

to go on so long; but Karpov

got "time-out" without sacri-

ficing his precious option to

postpone.

It is fanciful to think that

Kasparov will win the match

yet from a score of 1-5 down.

The match goes to the first

win. To taste victory after

31 failures must surely give

him new heart with the white

pieces in the new game start-

ing (barring a postponement)

tomorrow.

Incidentally, audiences the

world over favour the underdog.

Kasparov received a wonderful

reception, Karpov a formal one.

LUNCHEON

Her Majesty's Government

Sir Geoffrey Howe, Q.C. M.P.,

Secretary of State for Foreign

and Commonwealth Affairs, was

host at a luncheon given yester-

day at Hampton Court Palace by

Her Majesty's Government in

honour of Mr. M. S. Gorbachev,

General Secretary of the CPSU,

and Chairman of the Foreign Affairs

Committee of the Council of the

Union of the U.S.S.R., and

Soviet, and Mrs. Gorbacheva.

Other guests were:

Mr. and Mrs. Gorbachev and

Mr. and Mrs. Gorbachev and

Mr. and Mrs. Gorbachev and

Mr. and Mrs. Gorbachev and

Mr. and Mrs. Gorbachev and

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Strikes hit visits to historic houses

By ROBERT BEDLOW Estates Correspondent

THERE has been an average increase of five per

cent in the number of visitors to privately-

owned historic houses and gardens this year.

But the Historic Houses

Association said that indus-

trial action had taken its

toll in the tourist and leisure

industry.

It said that many privately

owned properties identified the

miners' strike and the teachers'

strike as a factor where visitors

declined, through fewer school

travels and family outings.

Others blamed the late

Easter, the traditional start to

the "open house season," which

meant they were open fewer

days over the year.

For the second year running

Warwick Castle was visited by

more people than any other

property, with 590,000 in Scot-

land. Blenheim Palace, in Ox-

ford, was second, with 500,000.

The Duke of Argyll, was top of

the league.

Appearing as a location for

television or film programmes,

considerably helped some

houses (Floors Castle, location

for the feature film "Grey-

Stoke"). Rockingham Castle,

used in the television series "By

the Sword Divided," and Her-

geford Castle, used for an

edition of "Gardeners World,"

all had a substantial increase

in visitors.

Up by 42 p.c.

At Bowood, Wilts., the Earl

success story with a 42 per

cent increase in visitors to the

house and rhododendron gar-

dens.

Gardens throughout the coun-

try benefited from the fine

summer. Exbury Gardens, near

Southampton had the largest

reported number of visitors, at

1,200,000. The gardens were

such as Roden Hall, Shrop-

shire, which reported a 35 per

cent increase, are all showing

substantial increases in visitors.

The good weather also helped

business such as Stanbury Hall,

Lincs, and Powderham Castle,

Devon, which concentrate on

outside events in their parks.

The favourable U.S. dollar ex-

change rate brought an influx

of American tourists. Britain's

ancestral houses. Houses and

gardens near Stratford on Avon,

the castles of Scotland and the

country's most famous houses,

reflected the most popular routes

taken by tourists.

Property Visitors Drop

Warwick Castle 590,000 -4

Blenheim Palace 500,000 -1

Newbury Palace 361,477 -1

Chatsworth House 244,345 -1

Woburn Abbey 232,000 -1

Hampton House 190,000 -1

Arundel Castle 180,000 -1

Stourhead 170,000 -1

Worcester Castle 160,000 -1

Worcester Castle 160,000 -1

Worcester Castle 160,000 -1

Worcester Castle 160,000 -1

Worcester Castle 160,000 -1

Worcester Castle 160,000 -1

Worcester Castle 160,000 -1

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Worcester Castle 160,000 -1

Worcester Castle 160,000 -1

Worcester Castle 160,000 -1

Worcester Castle 160,000 -1

Dr Charles Smith

DR Charles Andrew

Smith who has died

aged 89, had a place in

political life first as a

member of the Independ-

ent Labour party and

later with Common Wealth.

He succeeded James

Maxton as chairman of the

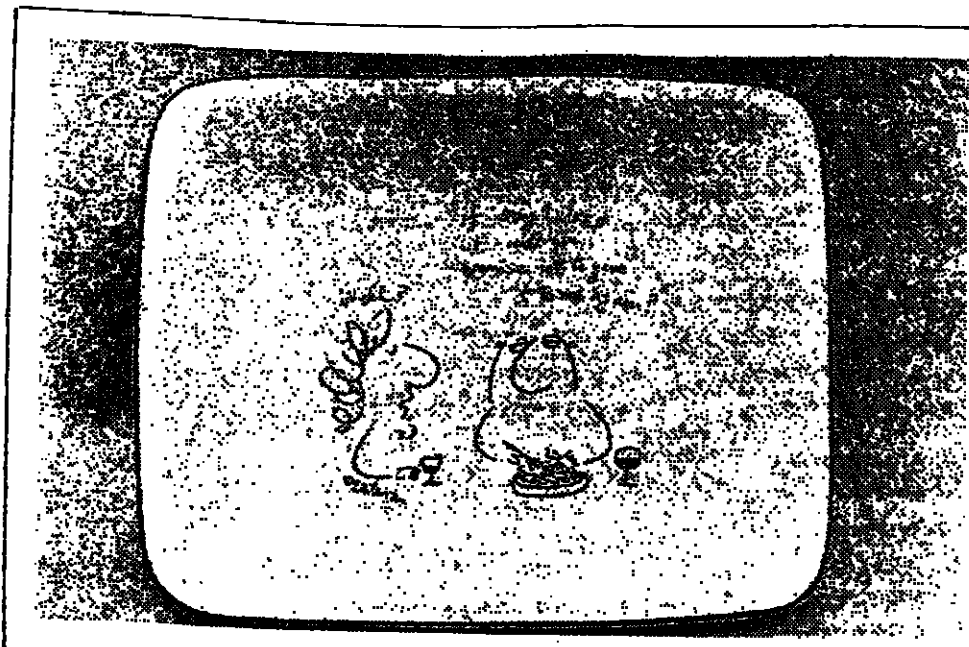
ILP in 1939 and held

office until 1941.

Later there were divisions in

the party about its attitude

to the war and Dr Smith took



Serving up wit

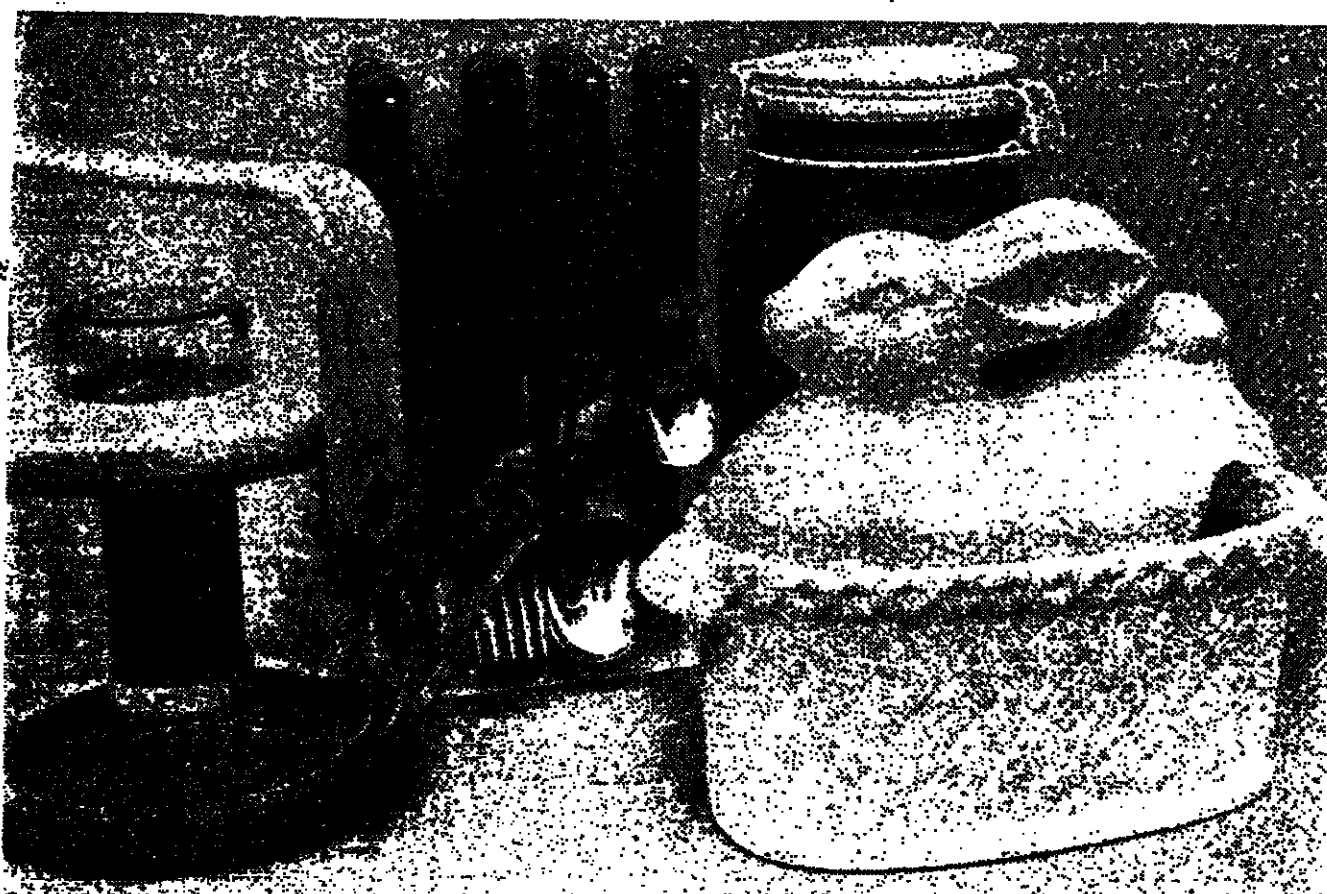
THIS Christmas's wittiest range of flan, baking and soufflé dishes is humorously decorated by the cartoonist Calman, to whom the man in the domestic disasters bears a passing resemblance.

The odd couple (as on the oblong baking dish pictured left) are gloomily portrayed having the kind of truncated conversations married people specialise in. "Well?" asks the wife. "If I say I liked it, would you promise not to give it to me again," replies her husband.

A companion plate says: "If you take my advice, you'll like it." Or: "Made with love is it?" "No, leftovers."

The range is dishwasher- and freezer-proof. The baking dish shown costs from £6.90 to £9.20, depending on size. Made by Honiton, the range is available from The Cartoon Gallery, 83 Lambs Conduit Street, London, WC1. Harvey Nichols, Knightsbridge, London SW1, and good kitchen shops.

A bargain hunter's guide, as the stores stand by for sales-time



PICTURED ABOVE, FROM LEFT: Bedon Bistre teapot in fireproof glass with plastic handle and lid plus tea filter, £21.95 to £12.95; six-piece stainless-steel cutlery set on stand, dishwasher proof, with blue, green, grey or white handles, £21.50 to £14.95; 11-pine storage jar, £3.95 to £2.50; all from Harvey Nichols, Knightsbridge, London SW1. Italian ceramic rabbit dish, part of a range which includes larger soup tureens and terrines in the shape of pigs, cows and chickens, £15 to £7.50, from Harrods, Knightsbridge, London SW1.

ONCE again the January sales, which now crowd together immediately after Christmas, will provide ideal pickings for shoppers disciplined enough to visit them.

The first sales start on the day after Boxing Day, providing the ideal retreat for those who feel they have had quite enough of Christmas to last until next year.

One of the big temptations at sale-time is to buy the suddenly-affordable luxury that is often marked down because it is an unfashionable colour or because the buyer made an expensive mistake. Don't make the same mistake yourself.

SANDERSON'S sale starts Saturday, December 29, fortuitously selecting that moment of reawakening after Christmas when bargain hunters will be crowding London's Oxford Street, ready to make the short diversion to the tranquillity of Berners Street.

These days, Sanderson sells much more than the fabrics and wallpapers on which its reputation is based. There will be bargains in all departments, including a wide range of printed fabrics, cut from £11.75 to £4.95 for a linen union and satin-faced reps at £6.50 (£16.95) (all seconds quality). Sanderson is at 52 Berners Street, London W1.

THE REJECT CHINA SHOP'S three branches are starting their sale on

Thursday, December 27, when there will be large stocks of all the top-selling names in tableware. Manufacturers such as Royal Worcester, Hornsea and Masons will need no introduction and prices are cut by between 25 to 50 per cent.

It could be a wise moment to invest in a spring wedding present, with canteens of cutlery reduced by 25 per cent. Reject China Shops are at 34 Beauchamp Place, London, SW3; 185 Brompton

Road, London, SW3; 154 Regent Street, London W1.

It is also a good moment to buy a new bed at the three branches of AND SO TO BED which now has an offshoot in Edinburgh. The 5ft 6in bed called Nathalie, by the Italian manufacturer Floa, is to be discontinued, a fact reflected in the price of £695 (£1,250). This fully-upholstered bed with its orthopaedic mattress, padded headboard and matching base cover, is sold complete with duvet and cover, fitted sheet and pillowcases.

Otherwise there is a large range of the brass reproduction beds for which the shops are noted. The sale starts on Thursday, December 27.

And So To Bed is at 638/640 King's Road, London, SW6, with branches at 7 New King's Road,

London, SW6 and 26 Castle Street, Edinburgh. CYRUS CARPETS' sale, which begins on Thursday December 27, includes a 50 per cent. reduction on over 70 of its carpets and rugs, which come from Iran, Turkey, India, Pakistan, China and Afghanistan. The company's stock ranges in price from £25 to £115.00. Cyrus Carpets is at 47 Piccadilly, London W1.

More beds are at THE LONDON BEDDING CENTRE, whose sale also

year. There will be 900 sale bin tables and 30 temporary dressing-rooms to accommodate the army of 300,000 or so shoppers expected on the first day.

The bargain-hunters will be picking over five discontinued Hornsea patterns, half-price. For connoisseurs there will be a small supply of Hornsea's beautifully-shaped "Imase" only ever stocked by Harrods and Heal's.

Other temptations include a mahogany canteen

of French cutlery, half-price at £150, with the same reductions on Sabatier knives, 40 per cent. off Orrefors glass, one-third off Dartington and St Louis French crystal. Bedlinen is another best sales buy, with half-price duvets, sheets and bedspreads. Harrods is at Knightsbridge, London SW1.

HEAL'S sale starts on Friday, December 28. As ever, there are some early-bird, one-offs well worth the early morning queue. A brown leather three-seater and two-seater sofa, plus armchair could not be faulted at £795 (£1,893).

Presents to buy yourself with Christmas present money include Elizabeth David's four-piece copper cooking set for £60 (£219), or one of Descamps French towel-ling robes in eight colours,

imperfect though one cannot see why, for £33.75 (£54).

SELFREDGES' sale starts on the popular day of Friday, December 28, when a 10-piece brass band will play to the bargain shoppers.

Outstanding bargains are to be found everywhere, with half-price mohair travel rugs at £14.95, double wool blankets at £19.95, Coloroll quilt covers at £8.95, single size, and Bassetti embroidered quilt covers at £18.95, double size. King-size Fogarty new duck-down duvets are down from £180 to £89.95. Selfridges is in Oxford Street, London W1.

MAPLES' sale, starting on Thursday, December 27, will include 20 per cent. reductions on its extensive range of American furniture and half-prices on items such as lamps.

Antique-effect solid pine dining and living-room furniture has its prices carved. A table, for example, which will cost £951 next year is £699. Maples is at Tottenham Court Road, London W1.

JOHN LEWIS' sale starts on Friday, December 28, and as prices are already so keen, the bargains on offer are considerable. Polaris stainless steel saucepans, always a good buy at prices from £24.50, are even more so at £14. Le Creuset saucepans are from £6.25 (£10.50) and white ceramic cookware and dishes are useful for the freezer at £5.45 (£14.95). John Lewis is in Oxford Street, London, W1.

IDEAS FOR LIVING is the shopfront for Lin Pac, which manufactures the Italian Kartell range of moulded plastic furniture.

The sale, which starts on Wednesday, January 2, will include bargains such as a metal bookcase, £50 (£108.15); plastic chairs in bright primary colours for £16.85 (£23.50) and metal coat stands at £29 (£45.50). Ideas for Living is at 5 Kensington High Street, London W8.

THE CUTLERY SHOP starts its sales on Thursday, December 27, and the sale offers some bargains: 84 pieces of silver-plated cutlery in the traditional head pattern costs £795 (£1,050).

Solid silver is available, at a price: 127 pieces of Versailles sterling silver, including a carving set by Roberts and Bell costs £5,450 (£7,095). The Cutlery Shop is at 50-52 Chancery Lane, London WC2, or in-store at the following shops: Lawless, 154 Regent Street, London W1; Debenhams, Oxford Street, London W1; Romford, Essex; Harrods, Middlesex; Cambridge; Bristol and Croydon, Surrey. It is also at Bentalls, Kingston upon Thames and Worthing, Sussex.



PICTURED ABOVE: bird bowl by Andrew McGarva £47.30, from The British Crafts Centre, 43 Earlham Street, London WC2, two pierced pot-pourri containers by West Marshall £43 each, stoneware sparrow by Rosemary Wren £23.65; all from The Craftsman Potters Shop, William Blake House, Marshall Street, London W1. Pictures by PAUL ARMIGER.

LAST MINUTE SHOPPERS TURN TO THE POTTERS

SMALL but interesting pieces of ceramic make individual presents for those reckless enough to leave shopping until the last possible moment.

Goetzee's silken evening bags and scarves in geometric Thirties silks are not overly expensive, with bags about £11.

For a special present, David Colwell's black-stained ash reclining chair is a thing of beauty at £190, as are Nic Gray's wooden trains and cars.

The British Crafts Centre and The Craftsman Potters Shop both have Christmas exhibitions, including many likely presents. The first can be taken in on a morning's visit to Covent Garden and includes pieces of furniture, textiles, games and delicately-made evening bags.

Cecil Jordan's cribbage board is, for such a perfectly-proportioned object, inexpensive at £27, and Monique

The Craftsman Potters Shop is full of small, inexpensive items as well as the more expensive large platters and set pieces. Andrew McGarva's painted pottery has a period flavour with its sketchy animals and twirling bits of foliage. In the picture is his perfect portrait of a bird, delicately carried out in greys and blues.

BY ELIZABETH WILLIAMSON

Road, London, SW3; 154 Regent Street, London W1.

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And So To Bed is at 638/640 King's Road, London, SW6, with branches at 7 New King's Road,

starts on Thursday, December 27. There won't be many people competing for the star bargain, I suspect. This is a reproduction of The Great Bed of Ware, the original of which can be viewed in the Victoria and Albert Museum.

At half-price, the reproduction costs £2,250 complete with curtains and covers; it measures a massive 6ft 6in square.

Some showroom models are half-price and orders placed during the sale for normal stock earn a 25 per cent. reduction. The London Bedding Centre is at 26/27 Sloane Street, London, SW1.

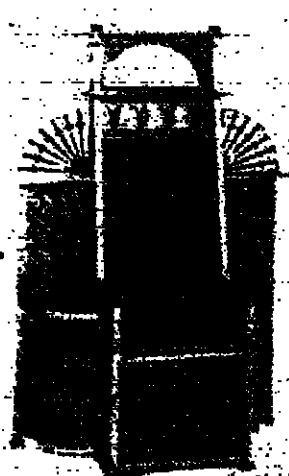
HARRODS is starting its sale on January 4, when the marathon bargain hunt will account for 500 additional tills recording something in excess of the £27 million the store took last

of French cutlery, half-price at £150, with the same reductions on Sabatier knives, 40 per cent. off Orrefors glass, one-third off Dartington and St Louis French crystal. Bedlinen is another best sales buy, with half-price duvets, sheets and bedspreads. Harrods is at Knightsbridge, London SW1.

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WHAT'S ON SHOW



IF YOU have ever wondered what the term Post-Modernism meant, then the current furniture exhibition at The Boilerhouse (Victoria and Albert Museum, London) might help to explain it.

The organisers don't seem to be too sure themselves, if their explanation is anything to go by: "This exhibition is the first opportunity to make international comparisons of new ideas in furniture, now that designers feel free from constraints and are able once again to explore pattern, colour, symbolism and metaphor."

It demonstrates that Post-Modernism is not one style, but many... The furniture itself, all made from brittle but beautiful solid melamine, is a revelation.

Unlike other Formicas, ColorCore has solid colour all the way through and its edges are an attractive part of the design, rather than having to be covered up.

Five chairs, folding chair and table, made by the TAG Design Partnership, and John Makepeace's classic cream pastel-layered low table, supported by six scrubbed oak legs, are outstanding among the British exhibits.

Otherwise there is much to admire.

The exhibition runs until January 13. LEFT: hall piece by Mitch Ryerson in high Gothic Revival style is made of ColorCore combined with white oak, maple, iron and glass.

WHAT'S NEW

FOCUS ON FROGS...

THE Criterion Tile Shop is a child of the Reject Tile Shop, both of which are in Wandsworth Bridge Road, London SW6.

The Criterion's speciality is first-quality tiles of interesting design and it has a good range of murals and hand-painted tiles, among which is the glum frog pictured.

Hand-painted by Marlborough Ceramics, it is part of a range of landscaped frogs, which cost £6.90 each.

We can't take away the pain this child has been through. But with your help, we'll do our best to make sure it never happens to her again.

For the past hundred years, the NSPCC has been giving aid and comfort to abused children using your donations.

Her father bruised, burnt and broke her arm. Now we want to twist yours.

Last year, over 43,000 children relied on us for help. This year marks our centenary and there's no sign of a significant reduction in the number of children who need help.

Anything you can send will be used to provide help immediately, for example even if you send as little as £5.60 it would help us to protect a child for one week.

When you realise what your money will achieve, you'll find that having your arm twisted doesn't hurt at all.

Yes, I would like to help, and I enclose my cheque or postal order for £..... Access and Visa card holders may debit their accounts.

Name..... BLOCK CAPITALS PLEASE

Signature.....

Name.....

Address.....

Postcode.....

Please send your donation to Dr A. Gilmour, NSPCC, Ref. 48074, 6 Saffron Hill, London EC1N 8RS.

We've helped 9 million children in the last 100 years.

THE COST OF THIS ADVERTISEMENT WAS KINDLY DONATED BY SINCLAIR RESEARCH.

REASONS FOR A VISIT

THAT THE VISIT TO BRITAIN OF Mr MIKHAIL GORBACHEV has got off to an "excellent start" (No. 10) and the talks between him and Mrs THATCHER and others were "businesslike" (PRAVDA) is probably a good thing for Anglo-Soviet relations, which have had their ups and downs over the past few years and might be all the better for a bit more trade and contact and a lot less spying. The so-called golden boy of Soviet politics appropriately brought with him a seasonal message of peace and goodwill from President CHERNOMIR who is said to have underlined the Kremlin's interest in resuming constructive East-West exchanges, and particularly arms-control negotiations.

There is no reason to doubt these sentiments, however belated they may be, because just at the moment and for all sorts of reasons, including an element of political manoeuvring, there is a new mood in the Kremlin which Mr GORBACHEV has been told to put across as widely and as good-naturedly as he can. Moscow is blowing hot—after blowing cold for some two years or more—and, although this is to be welcomed, the leadership of the West must not fail to grasp that Russia's principal objective in resuming the dialogue in London, and elsewhere, is to stop President REAGAN from pushing ahead with his ambitious Strategic Defence Initiative. To be fair to Mr GORBACHEV he said as much yesterday. What he did not say, of course, was that the Soviet Union's opposition was based on a realistic calculation that it would be left behind in any uncontrollable competition for more and more technically sophisticated space-based weaponry.

It may or may not be pure coincidence that Mr GORBACHEV has popped up in London at the very moment Mrs THATCHER is thinking about what she will say to Mr REAGAN on Saturday. But the Russians are well aware that the great debate on S.D.I. as well as on the American position at the more mundane Gromyko-Schultz talks in Geneva, is still taking place. Moscow may fondly, and foolishly, believe it can sway Mrs THATCHER's thinking. Certainly it likes to exploit divisions in Nato. Mr GORBACHEV may be looking and sounding like Grandfather Frost (Russia's Santa Claus) here this week but he is no such thing.

ACADEMIC BARBARISM?

IT IS SURPRISING to find that Sir KEITH JOSEPH's forthcoming Green Paper on higher education is to address itself in part to the question of how to suppress "barbarism" in Britain's universities. By this is meant, apparently, the practice of inviting eminent politicians to address university societies and then preventing them from doing so by organised demonstrations. This is a very deplorable practice; but is it really on the increase? Compared with what used to go on in the late '60s and early '70s (one recalls the famous Garden House riot in Cambridge in February, 1970), academic life is now surely reasonably quiet. It is not long since a couple of rather silly Cambridge proctors publicly deplored the apathy of this generation of undergraduates. With the exception of the North London Polytechnic—a traditional rabble—undergraduates now seem to be chiefly concerned with protesting about their own conditions of life—a natural and relatively harmless preoccupation.

A few conspicuous politicians may get eggs thrown at them, but the majority of lesser visitors, however offensive their opinions, encounter "barbarism" only in the shape of the rather inadequate hospitality they receive and the profound boredom to which they are exposed. The inadequate hospitality must be partly Sir Keith's fault. As for the boredom, it is a more serious matter, and one which may have some bearing on student violence. There were days within living memory when, in the Union societies of the ancient universities, it was forbidden to read speeches. Nowadays, debates in those places consist of a series of arid, ill-prepared essays, read verbatim and having no relation to anything which has been said before or is likely to be said afterwards. Actual physical violence would sometimes seem to be a happier alternative to this sort of persecution. These young people should be taught to argue.

As for sheer discipline, it used to be maintained at Oxford and Cambridge by the kind of draconian punishments which can be applied only by societies which are frankly elitist and whose members are conscious of the privileges they hold and the price at which those privileges are bought. People who physically assault visiting speakers should quite simply be sent down forever.

A DOUBTFUL RESCUE

WHEN HORSES BOLT it is not Whitehall's way to look the stable door. It prefers to collect the straw and send it to the analyst. Hence the Chancellor's decision, announced yesterday, to set up an "internal inquiry" into the near-collapse of the Johnson Matthey Bank. That the supervision of this bank's affairs may have left something to be desired is at least a reasonable speculation. But it is depressing that the Banking Act, carried through at the Bank of England's urgent behest only five years ago, should so soon require review.

The substantive question-mark thrown up by the JMB affair, however, is why the Bank of England leapt to catch the pieces in the first place. Only weeks before the Governor had pointedly reminded corporate managements that they should not look to Threadneedle Street to save them and theirs from the consequence of folly. Obviously the Bank cannot "stand aside" if a major participant in the banking system is threatened with collapse, any more than the American authorities could "stand aside" and watch Continental Illinois go under. But JMB was not a Continental Illinois, or anything like one. Only the London bullion market stood exposed to the demise of JMB; and the other participants in that market had the means to protect their flanks if need be.

Clearly the Treasury was no more enchanted by the Bank's knight errantry than were the clearing banks, which were subsequently strong-armed into putting up collateral. Indeed it has been said that the head of the Deputy Governor, who masterminded the rescue operation, might be called for on a charger. This would be somewhat rough justice, when greater men than he have done far more surprising things with public funds and subsequently gone on to greatness. All the same, the Johnson Matthey bale-out does leave a less than satisfactory taste. The Bank of England must always beware that it does not give grounds for the suspicion that there is one law for the City, another for outsiders.

PETER HORDERN, MP, would like to see planning for the future

replace the present reliance on short-term financial expediency

THE season of "U-turns" is on us. Nothing serious, mind; not at all like the screeching of brakes, the wrestling with the wheel, and the hard, headlong flight in the opposite direction, imposed by Mr Heath and Mr Pym on those of us who did not suspect that the then current party slogan "Change is our Ally," would take friendship quite so far.

Nor is it like the U-turns imposed on all Labour Governments by the International Monetary Fund, when foreigners get fed up with lending them more money for expensive socialist measures. No, the U-turns we now see, on student grants, for example, are the inevitable consequence of departmental cuts done in a hurry.

The cuts themselves are damaging. The money they seek to raise (£39 million in the case of student grants) is not large in relation to the £1,500 million which the Chancellor hopes to have available for tax cuts in his Budget. Yet the cuts seem very large to those parents who were expected to find the money, and to find it in a hurry. The whole process smacks not of careful consideration, consultation and explanation, but of short-term expediency, which is exactly what it is.

It would be easy to understand such decisions in the context of a crisis. But there is no crisis. Indeed, things seem to be going rather well at present, which makes these self-inflicted explosives all the more difficult to comprehend.

There is another part of the system which invites trouble, too, quite apart from the cuts. For while the public expenditure programme for next year, 1985-86, will be published in a month's time, the Budget proposals will not be known for another three months. Over the years, strong interest groups have developed to further their own ends, and they do so by laying down a bombardment for three months before the Budget.

Everybody joins in. Even the Prudential is to spend £400,000 in telling us all how wicked it would be to tax the investment income of pension funds. But is it so wicked? Has not the vast accumulation of funds within pension funds overwhelmed the private investor, been responsible for the construction of endless office blocks throughout the country and abroad, and increased the price of agricultural land?

Where is the current benefit—the massive increase in the exchange of goods and services, of investment, and of employment and of personal savings—to be found which would have taken place but for this enormously costly tax concession to pension funds, amounting to £2,250 million a year?

There is certainly a case to be argued. But what is likely to happen? There is a deeply

Pulling the public expenditure cracker

entrenched opposition by the other parties to anything suggested by the Government, and, it sadly seems, by some Conservatives too. To these forces are joined the special interests, which, knowing that the Chancellor will remain silent until March, parade their flags and fire their guns, without so much as a toot in return.

So when the Chancellor brings his Budget to the House, any proposal he may announce which affects an interest group is greeted with wailing and gnashing of teeth. The money they seek to raise (£39 million in the case of student grants) is not large in relation to the £1,500 million which the Chancellor hopes to have available for tax cuts in his Budget. Yet the cuts seem very large to those parents who were expected to find the money, and to find it in a hurry. The whole process smacks not of careful consideration, consultation and explanation, but of short-term expediency, which is exactly what it is.

They order things differently in other countries. In America, for example, the Office of Management and Budget surveys the whole field of public expenditure

'The U-turns we now see, on student grants, for example, are the inevitable consequence of cuts done in a hurry'

and suggests where cuts may be made. It also proposes what revenue should be raised and how taxes may be altered to achieve the desired ends.

What a contrast with the way we do things here! We seem to treat Departments as though their activities are quite immutable and never to be compared, one with another, for what they do for the public good. So on the one hand we find that heating allowances for those on supplementary benefit are reduced and, on the other, that large subsidies are still being paid to rich cereal farmers.

Each Department submits its own expenditure to the Treasury and the quality of this expenditure, or its relevance to the principal problems of our time, is never questioned. Each Minister jealously guards his own departmental expenditure, just as the feudal barons once guarded their fiefdoms.

It really will not do. What might be done instead is to ask the "Star Chamber," formed of senior Ministers, to reach agreement between Ministers and the Treasury, to sit permanently with a small staff to review the whole field of expenditure, and its relevance to our present and future demands.

British turf men under the whip

THE world of Irish racing has been shaken by a xenophobic attack on the membership of the Curragh-based Turf Club by the former Irish Prime Minister Liam Cosgrave.

The club—the ruling body of Irish racing—has been accused by Cosgrave of being dominated by the English in general and British army officers in particular.

"The membership has broadened in recent years, but it still smacks too much of the ancient regime," he alleged.

Last night angry members of the club denied his charges, accused him of Irish parochialism and claimed that the club, which they insist is dominated by Irish racing men, is far more go-ahead than his British counterpart.

Cosgrave's remarks were, in addition, described as the zaniest event in Irish racing since Shergar was kidnapped.

Poet's corner

DUMFRIESSHIRE councillors will be meeting on a windswept hillside early in the New Year to discuss the siting of a somewhat unwelcome gift—a statue of the area's second most famous poet after Burns, Hugh MacDiarmid.

The monument to the poet, who died in 1978, was commissioned by the Scottish Sculpture Trust from the sculptor Jake Harvey. Now finished, it is standing outside Harvey's backdoor while Dumfries council decides where to put it.

The cantankerous MacDiarmid, born in Largs, did not get on well with local officials and his widow has accused councillors of dragging their feet over the siting of the statue. The likeliest position is on a hill overlooking the route of the Langholm road, an annual drag hunt—which, ironically, provided the only occasion each year when the poet returned to his birthplace.

A couple of Welsh children, visiting their uncle in London at the weekend, were taken to see Father Christmas at a department store in Ealing. While they were surprised to hear him "go home" in a strong West London accent, they were astounded when he confided: "I know Wales well—I spend my summer holidays in Tenby."

Glorious Gloria
GLORIA FRANKLIN's appointment to head the Defence Ministry's new "think tank" brings the number of female civil servants promoted to the rank of assistant secretary—equivalent to a brigadier—up to five.

The other four who have breached the bastion are Mary Williams, Defence Counsellor for the British delegation at the conventional forces reduction talks at Vienna; Margaret Bibby, Head of Aircraft Finance and

LONDON DAY BY DAY

Secretariat: Alexa Walker, Head of Civilian Management and Pam Bailey, Director of Aircraft Support procurement.

Franklin's new division of 10 and "half a typist" are already taring to go. Significantly, she and an advance "embryo" team have beaten the gun by starting work in November of next year's Defence White Paper.

Pushing the boat out

THE 100 naval personnel on HMS Ark Royal at Swan Hunter's shipyard in Tyne and Wear will be particularly busy today handling round the mince pies and pouring drinks for the 2,000 workers who have been building the Navy's newest carrier.

The precedent was set by the ship's standby company last year in an event which included the arrival of a maritime Father Christmas and carol singing.

Lieut John Hodder, the ship's first senior officer, tells me that today's celebrations have been extended to include hot punch and beer as part of a thank you to the workers. Largely because the Ark Royal has recently completed a highly successful contractor's sea trials.

Ace in the holes

NEWS has reached me of a remarkable feat the other weekend at Sonning Golf Club near Reading, where one of the members, Sqdn-Ldr Ewen Gillies, hit two holes-in-one in the same round.

Gillies, a member of the club since 1968, has a handicap of 10 and achieved the two aces in a social game, not a tournament.

The feat is by no means unique according to the Guinness Book of Records, which notes at least 15 occasions on which aces have been achieved by players at consecutive holes, and two cases of three holes-in-one in a round.

Disposal departure

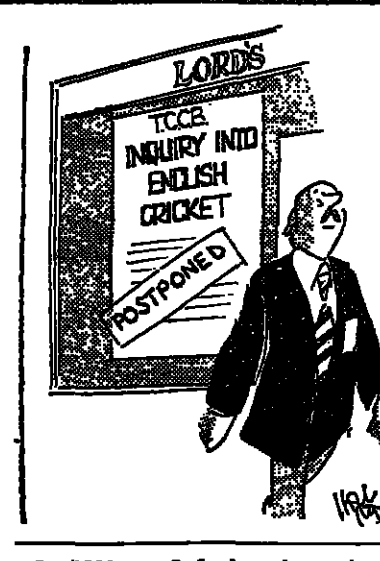
ONE of the Army's three bomb disposal units in Falklands mine clearance operations has just been posted away from the regiment to a staff job.

Maj. Geoff Ward, who lost a foot when he stepped on a mine, left the Royal Engineers Bomb Disposal Regiment last week.

The other two members of the regiment wounded in the conflict, Quartermaster Major Steve Hambrook, who also lost a foot, and RSM John Phillips who lost an arm while defusing a bomb on HMS Antelope, for which he was awarded the DSC—are still serving with bomb disposal, but are due for posting next year.

Account closed

A 775-YEAR-OLD murder mystery has been settled with the payment by the Treasury of £35-08 to Oxford University, according to a journal



In 1299 an Oxford undergraduate killed his mistress and decapitated her. The townspeople hanged two innocent students. For this the town was ordered to pay 52 shillings a year compensation in perpetuity to the university. The payment was later made by Evesham Abbey and, after the abolition of the monasteries, by the Treasury.

Historical romance

THE imaginative editorial staff of the BOOKSELLER trade paper tell me they have come up with the perfect solution to a Christmas competition to sum up the history of the world in 50 words, set by HISTORV TODAY magazine.

"When husky charmer Adam, clasped hauntingly beautiful Eve to his naked breast little did they know that theirs would be a dynasty torn by war, plague, greed and vengeance, a saga writ in blood and tears of a thousand civilisations throbbing with the lust to discover and possess."

Select party

WILLIAM PROXIMITY has been criticising the American government this week for spending more than 15 million dollars a year on lavish entertainment.

The money was used "to pamper foreign visitors, arms salesmen, government officials and Congressmen." "One thing is constant about this entertainment," the Democratic Senator complained: "the average taxpayer will never be invited."

Point to watch

A READER just back from a winter break in Gibraltar was intrigued to read in his holiday literature: "The sun usually rises on the eastern side of the rock..."

PETERBOROUGH

COST-CUTTING THROUGH COAL

SIR—As a fuel technologist I draw your attention to an aspect of the coal strike which has had too little attention. The one sector of the market for coal which is capable of a large expansion is the energy-intensive sector of private industry.

Most of this sector turned to oil years ago but recently natural gas has played an increasing role.

A decrease in fuel costs of the order of 20 to 40 per cent, is attainable by changing back to coal which can now be handled elegantly and simply.

It then becomes worthwhile to change if an annual fuel cost is into six figures.

There are hundreds of firms in this category. The Government has made a great available, for some time now, to assist in the capital cost but so few firms have taken it up that it has been extended. The grant ceases this month but doubtless it will be extended yet again.

Those in the private sector who did

change are now in trouble not because there is a shortage of coal—there is plenty—but because it is ungraded and presents handling problems. This difficulty started before the strike in that the overtime had seemed to stop maintenance of the all-important coal grading and preparation equipment.

Thus we compound the problem facing private industry. We burn too expensive a fuel and if we do not, we end with interruptions to production, either of which is costly.

Since a miner's wife shops where it is convenient and where the quality and price represent good value, so too does a business man as regards his purchase and choice of fuel. There is nothing political in the equation. It is a matter of economic necessity.

And so we cripple ourselves. A lower fuel cost would reduce the product price leading to more sales, leading to more jobs.

How silly can we get?

K. BUTTERWORTH

Leeds.

Easy way out for TV script editors

SIR—Mr Milton Shalman who writes on Dec. 11 has had a powerful phrase and of argument to support his long-term abhorrence of the amount of indiscriminate violence introduced into the action of stories presented for the entertainment of viewers by television producers and directors.

Most people with any long-term experience of the business would support him to a great extent because it is no pleasure to anyone that violent action should be paraded, within a dramatic context, as a solution to a personal, political, police or governmental situation.

However, this prevalence of the "easy way out" for script editors and television directors is more a criticism of professional standards than of matter for deep social concern which could, if accepted, lead in the direction of censorship of the worst "scissors-snipping" type which we had under the Hayes Code and our own British Board in its boiler-plate-thou days.

It is no good bringing American research into this argument because the network schedules in the United States are vastly different from those which have been patiently and diligently constructed over the years by our broadcast authorities. In the United States there is no such thing as a statutory requirement for a balance of programmes and, consequently, murder follows mayhem the whole day through on all three networks with only an occasional break for laughs.

It is regrettable that most of the violence on our screens seems to originate from the characters in soap operas who are supposed to be upholding either

the law or the security of the state. This is the real disease for it gives youngsters the wrong idea about how democracy is maintained. Exceptions like "Smiley" were enormously popular because there was the minimum presentation of "action man" and the maximum presentation of "thinking man".

Similarly, the fiasco of enterprise crime in "Minder" endeared itself to large audiences as being more true to life than the cheap successes the criminal seems to enjoy in other series which had best remain unnamed.

The recent short series, "The Bill," was a very welcome and highly entertaining presentation of the police as they really are and as they really have to work compared with the series (which may affect young policemen and their images of themselves) which emphasise riot gear, punch ups, fast cars and never ending danger.

The "Bill" would be far more likely to damp down the enthusiasms of the alleged 12 per cent of aggressive teenagers and adult behaviour in the police force.

As the parent of a teenager boy, I have every faith that he and his school friends will come through their current television experience into manhood without being infected by any orientation towards violence, unlike rather too many television script editors and directors who seem to evade the problem of creating dramatic situations without bangs, bashes and bad behaviour—all of which are very boring in the long run.

FRANK BROWN

London, S.W.11

Unnecessary councils

SIR—Councillor Keva Coombes, Leader of Merseyside County Council, (Dec. 7) suggests that the Government is wrong in its conclusion that the metropolitan counties' abolition would save money and increase local accountability.

It may be that the Labour party is committed to what he calls "directly elected strategic authorities for the major areas of the country."

A closer look, however, will show them to be what they are—an unnecessary tier of bureaucratic, expensive, often insensitive government. In Wirral, we of the county council, we could organise it ourselves much more easily, at less cost, and probably more efficiently.

In many instances it is time-wasting at the least to have to deal with an authority some way off instead of being able to make the decisions on the spot and, where possible, get on with it.

From what many of us on Merseyside can see, county councils get up to all the most outrageous things, like Merseyside's campaign against "low pay."

It is not that one should object to those sorts of campaigns, indeed they are at times necessary, but when the council itself is a low-pay employer, with over 500 of the council's own workers under the poverty line wage-earning bracket it strikes of the ultimate in hypocrisy.

My own ward is on the boundary of the county of Merseyside and Cheshire, of which we in Wirral used to be a part. Civic pride made us erect a sign welcoming people to Wirral and its fine people.

Recently an application was made by the county council to erect another sign bigger than our own, with the words: "Merseyside County Council... a nuclear-free zone."

Is it any wonder the Government wish to abolish an authority which is so blatantly wasteful of other people's money?

At present many of these Left-wing councils are spending as if "demob" happy. May their demise come effortlessly and swiftly.

(CL) MATTHEW BANKS
Metropolitan Borough of Wirral,
Gayton, Wirral.

Back to basics

SIR—I agree with Mrs V. Stanhope's recent letter but would add that many people answer a question nowadays with: "Well, basically..."

(MRS) VALERIE HADLEY
Helston, Cornwall.

Long battle to be fought for animals

SIR—Although there are many aspects of Lord Soper's utterances over the years with which I have never agreed, I am well pleased to be associated with his presidency of the League Against Cruel Sports.

But the matter of our general treatment of animals does not stop there, and few correspondents have done more to touch on the many aspects of this cruel, inhumane, and unspeakably barbarous business.

The fact is that the only body with any chance of making its weight felt at government level is the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, a society which, regrettably, would not always seem to have been to the fore in championing the plight of de-beaked battery chickens, blood sport victims, seal pups with blood caved-in heads, laboratory animals doomed to a living hell, or farm animals reared under conditions reminiscent of medieval torture chambers.

Although, in recent years, there has been an unfortunate and wholly counter-productive spate of organisations with dubious political affiliations purporting to link their revolutionary ideas with animal rights, the cause of animal welfare is, fortunately, magnificently shouldered by several legitimate political gain, monetary reward nor for societies headed by worthy people who are motivated by desire neither for

listing in the Queen's Birthday Honour, but solely by the will to do something positive to eradicate man's selfish and often thoughtlessly cruel treatment of God's creatures.

Sadly, however, it is true to say that a salutary change in man's attitude is not about to take place overnight. For those who really care, there is a long battle of attrition to be fought with the greatest of all our enemies—human nature.

For the time being, therefore, let us be content to nibble away at the cesses, starting with the worst. As purely moral issue, no pleasure should be encouraged to derive creature from killing or maiming another creature.

Let us encourage Lord Soper's League Against Cruel Sports to outlaw fox-hunting, deer hunting, hare coursing, and all other forms of killing in the name of sport.

Lord Soper is right. Such a change in human attitude could assist in which is sweeping the land. Let us, therefore, begin the process by involving our toddlers with understanding, all living creatures, so that future societies may be in peace and harmony with nature and fellow humans.

W. T. C. ANGUS
Campbelltown, Argyllshire.

Amersham, Bucks.

Amersham, Bucks.

THE QUESTOR COLUMN

Dented cans from Newcastle

TAKE canned beer away from Scottish and Newcastle Breweries and there's not much left, which is why a warning note about canned beer trading caused a mild panic yesterday. Scottish and Newcastle's interim profits at £37.5 million against £31.5 million before tax would, on their own, have provided a bit of pre-Christmas cheer to a cynical stock market.



The Scottish and Newcastle chairman, David Nickson — "confident outlook."

But the company spoiled the effect by saying: "Trading in canned beer is improving rather less favourably with 1983's exceptional volume growth." Investors weaned on McEwan's Export and Wm. Younger's Tattler Special took fright. In fact, there is no reason to be especially nervous. The group now feels that its market position is sufficiently strong where the margins are inadequate and brewing capacity is being matched to profitable sales potential rather than sales at any price.

In taking that attitude Scottish and Newcastle is no different from Bass, but retains the advantage of having a market leader, Keir, aimed specifically at the cheaper end of the market.

Draught lager sales were ahead enough to leave total beer volumes all-square at the half-way, with brewing profits up because of rationalisation benefits now coming through. Unlike most of its brethren, the beverage, there's still a lot of cost improvement to come.

At the same time hotels are coming strong as the industry enjoys boom conditions, especially in London. The recently agreed hotel sales will add to profits as interest earnings on the proceeds outweigh operating profits.

At that point to full year profits of around £65 million, a prospective price-earnings ratio of nine times, backed by a 6.3 p.c. potential yield at 136p.

In the brewing sector those

This may seem like a case of being grateful for small mercies but the whole engineering sector has been through the mangle over the last few years and Whessoe is emerging from that period in better shape than most.

This is thanks largely to its cash holdings. These provided the group with income during the worst days of the depression and are now financing new orders which are coming through. But they are far less favourable terms than Whessoe enjoyed at the start of the eighties as it began work on the Beyslam and Torress power stations.

That has substantially depleted liquid resources which have been more than halved to £5 million net over the last year, and they will reduce further in the current year, particularly if the first Sizewell B power station orders come through to push up working capital requirements.

Lower interest receivable this year is therefore inevitable, but the group should see improvements elsewhere particularly on the pipework operations where the Kismaking Canadian subsidiary has been disposed of.

That alone should add back around 900,000 to the pre-tax level making £5 million before tax a minimum profits expectation for the current year.

The yield of 9 p.c. at 88p now looks safer than at 70p long time and the shares on a prospective earnings multiple of 5.4 will gain in attraction—just as long as the Qatar fire claims remain a distant memory.

Seize Siebe opportunities

ACQUISITION benefits were always expected to make a strong impact on Siebe's interim report for the period to

end-September, but a half-million pre-tax profit of £6.97 million against £2.9 million took most by surprise. The share price response was 21p up at 475p, and with an encouraging second half in sight the shares must still be on a buyer's list.

Tecalemit Group is in for a full six months, Siebe North of the United States and Canada has done well and the Southern African interests have advanced. At home Siebe performed well as far as consumer goods were concerned, but in line with others saw slack conditions within the capital goods sector.

The overseas contribution to profits now runs at 70 p.c. and is likely to remain high while the American economy stays strong.

Last year's acquisitions brought with them their element of debt to give Siebe a gearing ratio of 64.5 p.c. at last half-end. This is, however, largely a temporary situation and by balance sheet date will be in lower ground.

Earlier Siebe looked on for £14.5 million pre-tax this year after £11.5 million in the year ended March, but following latest interim results the group would merely have to mark time in the second half to reach that level. Siebe is not merely going to stand still this second half, and pre-tax profits in the £16 million region must now be the target.

Given that acquisitions have been digested and are making their contribution, further deals to broaden the base should be expected.

Siebe is now released from earlier dividend restraints imposed by the Take-over Panel, and the interim payment rises by 15 p.c. A further final dividend should follow.

The shares are tightly held, but on a prospective price-earnings ratio of 10.5 buying opportunities should be taken.

Wolff in £24m cash injection

RUDOLF WOLFF, the international metal trading and commodities group, is increasing its capital base from £18 million to £42 million to help fund its expanding scale of operations. The £24 million injection comes from its parent Noranda, the Canadian-based resources group, and will be applied principally to Rudolf Wolff's financial, bullion and energy sectors.

Wolff was founded in 1866, is a member of the London Metal Exchange and has a worldwide network of offices. Its board believes a higher asset backing, which will be the equivalent of £350 million, is needed for a group which has diversified from general commodity broking into financial futures, bullion dealing and energy futures.

Belhaven Brewery

THE improvement at Belhaven Brewery Group, which was evident in 1983-84 when it posted profits from £158,000 to £405,000, has continued for it has more than doubled first half pre-tax profits from £268,000 to £517,000 on turnover £290,000 ahead at 26-18m.

The group is resuming dividends with a 0.35p interim on January 15 from earnings of 2.42p (1.47p).

At the trading level the brewery operations made £293,000 (£225,000) while the hotels and holiday village activities contributed £278,000 (£265,000). The board said the second half has started well.

Great Western

GREAT Western Resources, the American oil and gas exploration company which obtained a full listing in August via an offer for sale of 5m shares at 180p a share, has weighed in with full year pre-tax profits of £37,000 (£105,000) as against \$78,000 for the comparable period.

As foreshadowed, there is no dividend but in view of the successful drilling programme the board confirms their intention to pay an interim dividend for the current year. Six wells have been drilled in the DJ Basin, Wyoming, of which four are currently on sustained production.

Total daily production from the four wells is 440 barrels and all the oil from this area has been sold to Husky at \$29 a barrel.

May & Hassell

A COMBINATION of exchange rate fluctuations, the spin-off from the miners' strike and the omnipresent excess of supply over demand has eroded margins at May & Hassell in the half-year.

Pre-tax profits have slipped from £1.25m to £1.10m, but the interim dividend is being lifted from an adjusted 1.25p to 1.5p on Feb. 4.

Management accounts for the second half, meanwhile, show that most of the group is still trading profitably, though with reduced margins. Chairman Peter Ailey describes the second half as "hard" but anticipates a reasonable full year result.

Redfern National

MEASURES taken to reorganise the glass container business have shown through. Redfern National Glass in the year ended Sept. The group has turned round from losses of £2.40m to profits of £1.10m at the operating level.

Interest charges of £1.22m against £1.20m, however, still leave losses albeit much reduced at £235,000 compared with £5.70m in the first half. A similar 0.1p nominal dividend is payable to maintain trustee status.

The more favourable trend in profitability, meanwhile, has continued in the early part of the new financial year, and the board looks forward with confidence to 1985.

Pyke Holdings

PYKE Holdings has kept pre-tax profits moving forward during 1983-84 in line with sales for an 88 p.c. advance in turnover to £54.9m has been all but matched by an 85 p.c. increase in profits from £630,000 to £1.16m.

The group, Britain's leading supplier of meat to the catering industry, saw this progress stemmed from organic growth made possible by earlier investment in new production facilities, and the Peter Fairfax acquisition.

Turnover in the first two months this year has continued to show an increase; there have been two further acquisitions of catering butchers, and the group is exploring more opportunities to expand its regional distribution.

The final is 3p making 5p (5.5p) from earnings of 16-61p (17-81p).

Speyhawk

SPEYHAWK, the commercial and industrial property group, benefited from the improving market in the latter part of the year ended September. At the interim mark pre-tax profits showed a £62,000 dip to £612,000, but over the full year Speyhawk lifted its

earnings from £5.15m to a peak of £5.77m. It says the better conditions in the closing months enabled it to maintain momentum at proportionately higher margins of profit on its completed schemes. It begins the New Year with a number of buildings completed.

The final is 6.4p making 8.4p (7.7p) from earnings of 21p (18-2p).

Williamson Tea

THE substantial increase in full-year pre-tax profits forecast, by Williamson Tea Holdings in July has materialised, with the figure ahead from £1.81m to £2.6m on turnover of £11.5m against £10.8m.

Earnings came out at 108-88p, compared with 91-83p, and the dividend is going up from 15p to 20p on Jan. 29.

The opportunity given by the current relative prosperity has enabled the company to accelerate tea extensions, carry out further factory modernisations and other improvements.

Godfrey Davis

OPENING half pre-tax profits of Godfrey Davis (Holdings) slipped from £1.65m to £1.68m, but after interest charges of £108,000 (£114,000) given reasonable stability in economic conditions, however, the group expects full-year profits to exceed the previous year's record of £2.53m.

The interim dividend, meanwhile, is held at 1.5p, payable Jan. 10.

Zygal Dynamics

ZYGAL Dynamics' swing from pre-tax profits of £181,000 to a £182,000 loss in the half-year contrasted sharply with the optimism expressed by this supplier of computer terminals in June when it raised £1.2m via an issue of new Ordinary shares at 92p each.

Turnover rose from £2.15m to £2.71m but was considerably less than planned, the board explains. The principal reasons for the shortfall were a substantial loss incurred by Modular Technologies and delays in obtaining licences for new products.

The board expects the trading position to be considerably improved by the year-end. There is no dividend (same).

Reed International

REED International has paid \$6m cash for W. F. Taylor, a California-based supplier of flooring adhesives and accessories throughout the United States. Pre-tax profits last year were \$1.5m on sales of \$15.7m. The acquisition is part of Reed's policy of expansion in paint and DIY in America.

BET

BRITISH Electric Traction's subsidiary United Transport has acquired a 30 p.c. stake in a bus company in Hong Kong for £500,000, including an initial loan, and has an option to take a controlling share in due course.

BIDS AND DEALS

BPCC starts

Waddington sale

BRITISH Printing and Communications Corporation has started disposing of its 25 p.c.

Franchising grows at 20-30pc a year

By DAVID GREEN

FRANCHISING, having overcome the dubious reputation it gained in the early seventies from pyramid selling, is now enjoying a dramatic growth rate, helped in part by the rising unemployment figures.

This is one of the conclusions drawn by a Key Note survey of the sector which is at present growing at between 20 and 30 p.c. a year.

Many franchise companies established in the seventies have now become household names. More recently, major national companies have been attracted to franchising as a means of self-financing diversification.

And as the recession has forced redundancies at all levels of industry franchising has become a vehicle for gaining re-employment. This has facilitated the recent growth in domestic, low skill, high labour services.

All these factors, says the survey, are combining to give franchising its highest level of exposure—and respectability.

Franchising now has a considerable, growing base of established and capable franchise companies and businesses, policed by a strong and respected trade association and financed by the four main clearing banks' small business units.

The report estimates the number of companies now operating at 90, with 6,500 outlets and a turnover of around

£730 million, an increase of 20 p.c.

Next year it projects a growth in turnover of 30 p.c. to £940 million through 125 companies with 8,000 outlets, providing employment for around 60,000 people.

The report divides franchising into four sectors: Fast food, retail goods and services, computers and domestic and commercial services.

Fast food, the best known example of franchising, is now a crowded sector. There are fewer new companies entering the fray, though the American McDonalds group, with around 140 outlets in Britain, is likely to offer franchised outlets next year for the first time.

The fastest growing area of franchising is those companies providing commercial services. Among them is A I D S (Accountancy Information Development Services), which offers computer-based accountancy services to small businesses employing fewer than 100 people.

This company, adds the report, is providing a service to the growing number of small businesses while being one of the first to franchise a professional service.

Report available from Key Note Publications, 28-42, Banner Street, London, E.C.1, price £75 post paid.

Dunlop rescue hits snags

DUNLOP Holdings has still not been able to reach agreement with the bankers about the details of the financial rescue plan. New chairman Sir Michael Edwards, in his first letter to shareholders, warns: "The terms of the financial likely reconstruction proposals are to take some while to settle."

Talks have been in progress for more than a year and results were expected by August. Agreement was delayed and Sir Michael on Dunlop as chairman, resulting in the departure of the rest of the board.

Dunlop shares were suspended on Dec. 5 pending a financial package, which is not now expected before mid-January.

But Sir Michael tells shareholders: "The task of rebuilding the group has already begun." Management has been reorganised and costs cut, and he plans both to rationalise and

to start acquisitions and divestments.

The financial reconstruction will require new equity capital both "from existing Ordinary shareholders and partly from new institutional investors." In addition the banks will convert existing loans into equity as well as granting additional borrowing facilities.

Sir Michael warns the deal will involve "a substantial dilution" of existing holdings but is "essential if Dunlop is to continue trading." Existing shareholders will have the chance to participate in the new issue.

Two new non-executive directors have been appointed—Robin Adam recently retired deputy chairman of British Petroleum and now chairman of M.E.P.C. and Duncan Rhuck, previously chairman of Swire Pacific and now chairman of the British Tourist Authority.

Unit trusts sales up £30m net

UNIT TRUST repurchases in November were a near record, but a strong recovery on sales left net investment at £30 million up on the month at £125 million—the second best since March.

Although some of the repurchases could have been made to finance applications for British Telecom shares, unit trusts have been barely hit by this heavily-promoted rival investment. By comparison,

building society net receipts for the month fell from £1.125 million to £1.05 million, and National Savings net inflow of £58.7 million turned into a net outflow of £61.7 million.

Repurchases of units, at £172 million, were only £7 million below their May record when world stock markets dipped. Gross sales of new units were £227 million, however—the best figure since March and the third highest, ever. Sales in October were £217 million and repurchases £122 million.

November's £31.2 million net loss was helped by the launch of 11 new trusts, many timed to beat the Telecom flotation—though there had been a record 14 launches in October.

So far this year 85 trusts have been launched by members of the Unit Trust Association, bringing the number of their trusts to 675, worth £14.5 billion.

MONEY & EXCHANGES

THE sterling index slipped from 73.2 to 73.1 in the week ended Nov. 15-19, 1984, but was up from 71.95 to 73.15 in very quiet markets yesterday.

The pound also shaded in terms of other major currencies such as the mark and the dollar.

With the pound showing relative stability and the London

money markets enjoying surplus liquidity for the first time in six months, the cost of wholesale money in Britain remained very steady, with the key three-month rate holding at 9 1/4 p.c.

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rate holding at 9 1/4 p.c.

THE POUND ABROAD

17-12-84	Prev. close
America.....25.88-89	25.94-95
Canada.....1.712-713	1.712-713
France.....16.12-16	16.12-16
Germany.....1.362-362	1.362-362
Italy.....1.770-770	1.770-770
Japan.....161.10-10	161.10-10
Netherlands.....2.200-00	2.200-00
Spain.....167.00-00	167.00-00
Sweden.....13.10-10	13.10-10
Switzerland.....1.510-10	1.510-10
U.K. (Sterling).....1.000-00	1.000-00

Effective Sterling Exchange Rate Index (Base 1975=100)

OTHER MARKET RATES

Australia.....A\$109.88-109.19	109.88-109.19
Belgium.....Bfr145.00-145.00	145.00-145.00
Canada.....Cdn\$1.00-1.00	1.00-1.00
Denmark.....DKr5.46-5.46	5.46-5.46
France.....FFr6.55-6.55	6.55-6.55
Germany.....DM4.54-4.54	4.54-4.54
Italy.....Lit1,360-1,360	1,360-1,360
Japan.....Yen161.10-161.10	161.10-161.10
Netherlands.....Gld2.200-2.200	2.200-2.200
Spain.....Ptas167.00-167.00	167.00-167.00
Sweden.....Skr13.10-13.10	13.10-13.10
Switzerland.....Sfr1.510-1.510	1.510-1.510
U.K. (Sterling).....£1.000-£1.000	1.000-1.000

DOLLAR RATES

17-12-84	Prev. close
Australia.....A\$1.52-1.52	1.52-1.52
Canada.....Cdn\$0.75-0.75	0.75-0.75
France.....FFr6.55-6.55	6.55-6.55
Germany.....DM4.54-4.54	4.54-4.54
Italy.....Lit1,360-1,360	1,360-1,360
Japan.....Yen161.10-161.10	161.10-161.10
Netherlands.....Gld2.200-2.200	2.200-2.200
Spain.....Ptas167.00-167.00	167.00-167.00
Sweden.....Skr13.10-13.10	13.10-13.10
Switzerland.....Sfr1.510-1.510	1.510-1.510
U.K. (Sterling).....£1.000-£1.000	1.000-1.000

EURO CURRENCIES

17-12-84	Prev. close
Australia.....A\$1.52-1.52	1.52-1.52
Canada.....Cdn\$0.75-0.75	0.75-0.75
France.....FFr6.55-6.55	6.55-6.55
Germany.....DM4.54-4.54	4.54-4.54
Italy.....Lit1,360-1,360	1,360-1,360
Japan.....Yen161.10-161.10	161.10-161.10
Netherlands.....Gld2.200-2.200	2.200-2.200
Spain.....Ptas167.00-167.00	167.00-167.00
Sweden.....Skr13.10-13.10	13.10-13.10
Switzerland.....Sfr1.510-1.510	1.510-1.510
U.K. (Sterling).....£1.000-£1.000	1.000-1.000

FORWARD RATES

17-12-84	Prev. close
Australia.....A\$1.52-1.52	1.52-1.52
Canada.....Cdn\$0.75-0.75	0.75-0.75
France.....FFr6.55-6.55	6.55-6.55
Germany.....DM4.54-4.54	4.54-4.54
Italy.....Lit1,360-1,360	1,360-1,360
Japan.....Yen161.10-161.10	161.10-161.10
Netherlands.....Gld2.200-2.200	2.200-2.200
Spain.....Ptas167.00-167.00	167.00-167.00
Sweden.....Skr13.10-13.10	13.10-13.10
Switzerland.....Sfr1.510-1.510	1.510-1.510
U.K. (Sterling).....£1.000-£1.000	1.000-1.000

GOLD PRICE

17-12-84	Prev. close
Australia.....A\$1.52-1.52	1.52-1.52
Canada.....Cdn\$0.75-0.75	0.75-0.75
France.....FFr6.55-6.55	6.55-6.55
Germany.....DM4.54-4.54	4.54-4.54
Italy.....Lit1,360-1,360	1,360-1,360
Japan.....Yen161.10-161.10	161.10-161.10
Netherlands.....Gld2.200-2.200	2.200-2.200
Spain.....Ptas167.00-167.00	167.00-167.00
Sweden.....Skr13.10-13.10	13.10-13.10
Switzerland.....Sfr1.510-1.510	1.510-1.510
U.K. (Sterling).....£1.000-£1.000	1.000-1.000

KRUGGERANDS

17-12-84	Prev. close
Australia.....A\$1.52-1.52	1.52-1.52
Canada.....Cdn\$0.75-0.75	0.75-0.75
France.....FFr6.55-6.55	6.55-6.55
Germany.....DM4.54-4.54	4.54-4.54
Italy.....Lit1,360-1,360	1,360-1,360
Japan.....Yen161.10-161.10	161.10-161.10
Netherlands.....Gld2.200-2.200	2.200-2.200
Spain.....Ptas167.00-167.00	167.00-167.00
Sweden.....Skr13.10-13.10	13.10-13.10
Switzerland.....Sfr1.510-1.510	1.510-1.510
U.K. (Sterling).....£1.000-£1.000	1.000-1.000

PLATINUM NOBLES

17-12-84	Prev. close
Australia.....A\$1.52-1.52	1.52-1.52
Canada.....Cdn\$0.75-0.75	0.75-0.75
France.....FFr6.55-6.55	6.55-6.55

Sport ON 4 PAGES

JONES OFFERS ENGLAND LITTLE HOPE

By JOHN MASON

ENGLAND, the bulk of whose leading forwards were training at Stourbridge last night in preparation for the international against Rumania at Twickenham on Jan. 5, will need time to compete on equal terms with other championship contenders, it was suggested in London yesterday.

"England must learn to give their game an element of risk and people must be sympathetic if a player fails in taking a chance. But England—and Wales—must not allow gloom and doom to envelop them. That sort of attitude is corrosive."

I offer no prizes to anyone guessing the identity of the speaker. Alan Jones, Australia's coach, was taking his leave of these islands as he bristled forthright on farewells day as he was at the moment of arrival 10 weeks ago.

Asked to assess how he thought the Five Nations championship would work out, Mr Jones, excluded France because Australia had not played them. "But I believe that Scotland will again finish at the top of the pool. I believe Ireland will be the surprise team, with Wales next and England at the bottom," he added.

Alternative strategy
"In our test against Wales, they expected to be able to outscore us. As soon as the match started it was obvious that the reverse was true and Wales had no alternative strategy. I know that they have been a bit pressed about their defeat since."

Though little more than half the tour party were on the flight from Heathrow early last night, those staying behind have few thoughts of rugby and none is missing for the Barbarians. Instead the holidaying contingent—"we are all mentally and physically drained," said Jones—will be seeking Carriacou resorts for the most part. David Campese is going to Italy and though not immediately, Mark Tilsley, Hill and Peter Grigg will be working in London.

The Barbarians, the antennae finely tuned to a succession of felicitous decisions, have invited Terry Holmes, to play against



Terry Holmes... returns for the Barbarians.

ELLA EYES GUEST SPOT

Though Mark Ella, 25, is insistent for the present that he has played his last match for Australia, he is not giving up altogether, writes John Mason.

Nor does Alan Jones, Australia's coach, accept that Ella has made up his mind finally about international rugby. Ella, who is remaining in London until March on behalf of his tobacco-company employer, said yesterday: "If I could play on an invitation, I would. I am sure I'd love to. If a club asked me to turn out for them the following Saturday, I might do it."

Jones declared: "I'm confident Mark will carry on playing. At the end of a tour like this, all the players want to retire."

"In three months' time, I bet only two members of the party will have retired—and Ella won't be one of them."

TONIGHT'S RUGBY

RUGBY UNION: Glamorgan v. Cardiff (8.15pm, Cardiff). Wales v. England (7.45pm, Cardiff).

Schools Rugby

By Our Schools Rugby Correspondent

Slick Australians finish tour in style

Sevenoaks ... 0, Armadale, NSW ... 13pts

ARMADALE, from New South Wales, fielded their strongest team for the eighth and last match of their tour and gained their fifth victory, scoring three tries at Sevenoaks yesterday.

Heavy mud made conditions unsuitable for the running and passing game, which comes naturally to the Australians, but they adapted themselves well and their brought off a number of flowing moves, in which Tombs and Chester, in the centre, were always prominent. It was soon clear that the high, hanging kick would be a most effective weapon of attack. More

and Chester were adept at these tactics for Armadale, and Slater was not slow to follow their example for Sevenoaks. Hodgson, Schunker and Bourne had many awkward situations to deal with, and that the Australians did not score from the kicks tested strongly to the soundness of the Sevenoaks backs under such pressure.

Sound defence

The home side came nearest to scoring in the first few minutes, when a penalty kick by Schunker bounced back off a post, and Armadale scrambled the ball clear. After incisive running by Tombs and Chester, however, play to the Sevenoaks line, Tombs broke through again and Todd Perratt took his pass for a try under the posts.

Sussex to press for leagues

By BILL DAY

THE Sussex County Union have thrown their full weight behind a drive to persuade the RFU to establish a properly constituted league system for clubs.

After a shift of opinion in the county, Sussex now want leagues implemented as soon as possible to replace the growing network of merit tables springing up all over the country.

Ted Wynter, Sussex's RFU representative, has been empowered to spare no effort in advocating the introduction of a new system at RFU meetings.

Peter Sealey, Sussex merit table organiser, said last night: "We don't want to mess around with merit tables any longer."

"We want proper league systems, with fixtures not based on historical associations, geographical considerations or the old by network."

Proper system

"A proper league system, in theory, would enable the lowest club in the country to finish up playing Harlequins if they did the impossible and kept on winning."

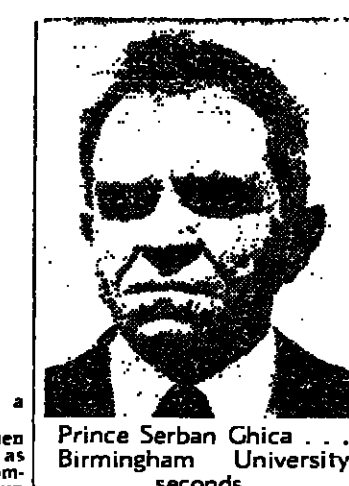
He paid tribute to the success of merit tables, which had paved the way for leagues and raised the standard of the game.

Mr Sealey's observation was illustrated by two shock results in Sunday's Sussex Cup quarter-final matches.

Eastbourne sprung the most impressive giant-killing feat for years by removing Crawley, a 100-year-old club, from the cup with a 14-0 scoreline, and little Chichester knocked out Horsham.

Rising standards

The performances of Eastbourne and Chichester, both Sussex Merit Table Second Division clubs, in beating First Division opposition, demonstrates a paring of playing standards fostered by merit tables and which would clearly be stimu-



Prince Serban Chica... Birmingham University seconds.



Viorel Moraru... the only Rumanian to have scored a try at Twickenham.

How Rumania got in the scrum

By CHRIS THAU

FOR every Rumanian sportsman, irrespective of background or political persuasion, Jan. 5 must be a landmark in the history of Rumanian rugby.

It is the day when the unthinkable becomes fact, and Rumania take on England in a full rugby union international.

It will be a day that epitomises better than anything else the changing face of international rugby.

Rumania's progress, in a comparatively short time, is astonishing if one bears in mind that for a long while before the 1930s the main aim of Rumanian rugby was to ensure the survival of the game.

The reasons for this miraculous survival, and impressive success of late, has always been a puzzle. Why Rumania?

Unusual entry

In vivid contrast to the spread from Britain of rugby or soccer to the nations, a total rugby was introduced into Rumania by immigrant workers and sportsmen from France, Ireland, Scotland or Wales, or France either, for France.

France deserves some credit, for it was there that Rumanian students took a fancy for the game.

That fancy readily took root in Rumania, for rugby is a game for proud, strong and fiercely independent men, a description which fits the national character, the mystic aura of manliness which surrounds the game has also had its attraction, but there were other psychological and sentimental reasons.

Rumanians have always regarded rugby as a link with their bond between themselves and their Latin kinsmen in the west. Surrounded by the Hungarians the Rumanians have been subject to something of a siege mentality and they would point out that they have never been beaten by any of their neighbours.

And indeed, the Poles, Czechs and Slovaks and Russians and even the Yugoslavs and Bulgarians have all been playing rugby on and off, since the thirties or even twenties, but none have managed so far to secure a challenge to the established order of international rugby.

Princely praises

There were also men like Prince Serban Chica, a simple commander of the Rumanian army, the praises of rugby with the zeal that only a convert can command.

The ambiguity of the whole process is emphasised by the bizarre alliance between Serban Chica—of Birmingham University—former communist mayor of a small Moldavian town who fought side by side to put Buzau on its feet, and now their first match against England at Twickenham, proved.

Rubicon crossed

In their attempt to win recognition the Rumanians have found out that a cautious approach and the elimination of unnecessary mistakes is the formula for not losing and which would open to them the hidden temple of "big-time" rugby.

The "psychological Rubicon" of Rumanian rugby, the English who the Rumanians, disguised as a Bucharest selection, played for the first time at Twickenham against the English in a game which ended in a 9-9 draw.

Thirty years later, young Octavian Moraru might hope to emulate the feat of his father, manager Viorel, the only Rumanian to have scored a try at Twickenham. There is no better place to underline the ambiguity of the whole process than at Twickenham in its 75th anniversary season.

Rumania has come a long way from the 6-3 annihilation by France in 1924. The recent wins against Wales and Scotland, and now their first match against England at Twickenham, proved.

SITUATIONS VACANT

Continued from Page 18

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NORTH MOUNTS STRONG RAID ON CORAL NATIONAL

By HOTSPIR (Peter Scott)

SATURDAY'S Coral Welsh National at Chepstow will attract a string of good staying chasers from the north of England and Scotland, although a surprise Kelso defeat for Earls Brig yesterday has put his appearance in doubt.

Right-hand Man, Andromeda and Hardy Lad are Yorkshire-trained hopes. A Kinsman travels from Cumbria, and Kumbi represents Red Rum's Southport stable. Peaty Sandy, the 1981 winner, has recovered form and is Scotland's main contender.

Peaty Sandy beat Hardy Lad at Newcastle 16 days ago. Right-hand Man, the Dickinson challenger, has won both his races this season.

Andromeda began last season as a novice and ended it by winning the William Hill Scottish National at Ayr.

Kumbi won a long-distance

the way to Wetherby 10 days ago, and will be out of action until the 14th.

De Haan's second-race fall on the 1st at Doncaster has put him in the limelight. He had been due to ride Duesenberg, Smith's Man and Grundy's Glow.

Haydock Park announce a record prize-money budget for 1983, although the Levy Board has been forced to reduce its contribution. Work is going ahead there to improve the facilities, and it is hoped this will be ready to stage the Vespene Sprint Cup next September.

The present six-furlong course, started from a chute and with a run-in of little more than half a

Duesenberg (Mark Perrett), first leg of a Jenny Pitman treble

Course Notes & Hints

'WEST' IS BEST OF THE DAY

By Our Course Correspondent

FRANK HILL, whose 100th win as an owner came from NORTH WEST at Folkestone 13 months ago, may gain his first success since with the same horse over course and distance in today's Heathfield Handicap (2.15).

He had the reminder well behind him, a three-length second to Rock Saint on his reappearance at Lifford Park this month and will be better for the outing. Three Chances, a game winner at Nottingham recently, seems the main threat.

'Happiness' fancied

Cocoon looked set to make a successful jumping debut at Plumpton a week ago until a heavy fall at the fourth fence. The favourite, which has been a favourite since that experience, the seven-year-old may take advantage of a 5lb concession from Some Shot in today's Kingston Novices' Chase (3.15).

Health N Happiness is fancied for the Standard Novices' Hurdle (2.45), and Ten Bears may take the Shadsworth Conditional Jockeys' Handicap Chase (3.15). Crystal Glitters, the French four-year-old who won this year's Prix d'Esplanade and then finished fourth to Sadlers Wells in the Coral Cup Stakes at Sandown Park, will stand at the Haras de Meautry next spring. Crystal Glitters has been syndicated.

mile, is unsatisfactory for a race of such importance and can lead to a crash. This year's Vespene Sprint Cup was a tough race in which the favourite, committed to a nearly brought down.

Committed, previously successful in the William Hill Sprint Championship at York, went on to win the Prix de l'Abbaye at Longchamps, but she and the midland stable, still engaged, but Lucky Vase, which took the Knock Hill and Little Plover.

Corbiers, the 1982 Welsh National winner, still engaged, but Lucky Vase, which took the Knock Hill and Little Plover.

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Ludlow card and riding plans

SELECTIONS	FORM
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Advance official going: GOOD TO SOFT

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Folkestone fields and form guide

Racecard

After 13 doleful Tests, England's luck changes

EDMONDS AND POCOCK CREATE UNLIKELY WIN

By MICHAEL CAREY in New Delhi

ENGLAND obtained one of their more improbable Test victories of recent years, and their first under David Gower's leadership, when they defeated India by eight wickets in New Delhi yesterday.

This levelled the series at one-all, and it was a performance that under the circumstances amounted to something like a cricketing version of the Indian rope trick.

The match was won and lost in 90 post-lunch minutes when India, looking on the verge of safety with a lead of 93 and six wickets in hand, lost them for only 51 runs to the spin of Phil Edmonds and Pat Pocock, leaving England to make 125 for victory.

This was achieved for the loss of Robinson and Fowler, who had been called from his sick bed to open—Gatting and Gavaskar, however, so vigorously that the task was achieved in only 24 overs of the 12th hour of the final hour.

Gower's post-match comment that it was a helluva nice feeling to lead England to success in his 11th match as captain was a masterpiece of understatement, all things considered.

Indian ill-discipline
England has again discovered that they need to function at something like 120 per cent efficiency in all departments to overcome local hazards. It was their resilience that they did so and takes nothing away from their feat that the discipline of some Indian batsmen made the unlikely become reality.

The ball perhaps turned more often yesterday but lunch-time seemed that much harder work lay ahead in trying to dislodge batsmen whose main intent right from the start was to outlast.

It was then that Gower, in the privacy of the dressing room and after much all-round discussion, decided to launch Cowans on a decision to bat. Heave the intense events of that afternoon.

He decided against claiming a second new ball which was already available. With Patil and Gavaskar looking established, the temptation to launch Cowans on a decision to bat was enormous.

Spinners' preference
The possibility of Edmonds and Cowans sharing it was also discussed. In the end, the spinners' preference to continue with the old one won the day, with consequences that now have their right place in English cricket history.

The day had started with Edmonds bowling Amarnath in his first over with a ball that turned as they batsmen shaped to play with its natural drift to the outside. But Gavaskar, having fended off two awkward lifting balls from Cowans, looked ominously secure the longer he was there.

It was something of a surprise therefore when he gave himself room to try to bowl him. Shastri immediately dropped anchor but Patil, heaving the penultimate ball of the pre-lunch session for six off Pocock, offered a slight



Graeme Fowler shows no signs of having come from a sick-bed as he thrashes a ball from Prabhakar yesterday, while (right) Allan Lamb swings a delivery from Sivarama to fine leg.

The scoreboard

INDIA—First Innings: 397 (Kapil Dev 88; R. M. Ellison 4-66).

	R	B	4s	6s
S. M. Gavaskar	88	100	10	2
M. Prabhakar	44	50	6	1
D. B. Vengsarkar	33	40	4	0
N. S. Amarnath	22	30	3	0
S. M. Patil	11	10	1	0
A. J. Shastri	10	10	1	0
Kapil Dev	8	10	1	0
A. D. Gaekwad	7	10	1	0
S. T. Tendulkar	6	10	1	0
L. Sivaramakrishnan	5	10	1	0
Extras (b 6, lb 10, w 1, nb 3)	20			
Total	397			

Fall of wickets: 1-22, 2-33, 3-44, 4-55, 5-66, 6-77, 7-88, 8-99, 9-110, 10-121, 11-132, 12-143, 13-154, 14-165, 15-176, 16-187, 17-198, 18-209, 19-220, 20-231, 21-242, 22-253, 23-264, 24-275, 25-286, 26-297, 27-308, 28-319, 29-330, 30-341, 31-352, 32-363, 33-374, 34-385, 35-396.

Davis Cup

'Genuine apology' saves Connors

JIMMY CONNORS escaped being defaulted from the Davis Cup final in Gothenburg yesterday after expressing what Alan Mills, the referee, called a very genuine and personal apology.

Connors was fined \$2,000 (£1,600) for his three offences—two of them verbal obscenities—during a straight sets defeat by Mats Wilander in Sunday's opening rubber of the match.

As a result of the apology, directed also towards George Grime, the British umpire, during a 10-minute interview between Mr Mills and the player, also attended by Arthur Ashe, the American captain, Connors was astonishingly excused any additional penalty for another outburst when the match was over.

Mr Mills listed four reasons for accepting the apology:

- (1) Default would have meant disappointment for a lot of people.
- (2) The importance of the tie.
- (3) The pressures and strains Connors had been under, with his wife expecting a baby at any minute.
- (4) The genuineness of the apology.

The apology factor came as something of a surprise to those of us who—30 minutes after the match—had heard Connors say: "I have no regrets. I never regret anything I've ever done in my life. I take full responsibility for what I've done on and off the court, good or bad, right or wrong."

Default error
What changed his attitude? "A good night's sleep," suggested Mr Mills, who went on to admit that he had been mistaken the night before when he said that a default for Connors would have meant the United States forfeiting his services.

It requires that if a player taken ill or breaks a leg, they can only bring in a substitute with the referee's permission; if a player is defaulted, no-one can stop them using a substitute.

Such a rule is surely a nonsense. Lawn tennis may be an individual sport, but the Davis Cup is a team event, so the team as a whole ought to be the price for any outrage perpetrated by one of its members.

Taking the rule to extreme lengths, just suppose that, instead of abusing officials, a player in a fit of temper, physically attacks an opponent and prevents him from taking any further part in the match.

Under the definition of the rule, given yesterday, the attacker who is defaulted, the referee has the right to be replaced. The victim is at the mercy of the referee's discretion.

It requires a policy of fines totalling £1,600 on a man who has amassed around £5 million in his career, leaves one wondering why he is in tennis.

Mr Mills is, however, to be recommended in his report to the International Tennis Federation that the disqualification rule should be altered.

In future, it ought to mean that a player who is defaulted, if he means that a default, like a sending-off in soccer, applies to the whole match and not just one rubber.

Davis Cup Final

Sweden's young doubles pair finish Americans

By JOHN PARSONS in Gothenburg

SWEDEN have won the Davis Cup. Stefan Edberg, S 23, and Anders Jarryd, 18, made them champions again when they beat the powerful John McEnroe and Peter Fleming in the doubles to give them a winning 3-0 lead in Gothenburg last night.

The Americans saved three match points at 4-5 in the fourth set, but were decisively beaten overall 7-5, 5-7, 6-2, 7-5 in a marvellous struggle of more than three hours.

In a high quality opening set lasting 45 minutes McEnroe's skilful variety of volleys and overheads at the net quickly became a feature, though it was the service reliability of the players which was always most likely to prove decisive.

Youthful talent
It had been widely hinted that Edberg might have replaced Wilander.

Edberg, at 18 only 12 days from equalling Spain's Manuel Santana as the youngest competitor ever in a Davis Cup final, quickly promised to be a stronger arm of the Swedish partnership.

In the second set Edberg played superbly, especially after Jarryd had broken through to give the Americans their first break point of the match after 67 minutes, which McEnroe clinched with another of his lightning volleys.

Fleming, whose serve had a tendency to waver, was the first to find himself in trouble in the fourth set. He survived that alarm, but four games later, came the break which cost the Americans the first set.

McEnroe's first break came in the first game of the second set, which Edberg's service broke back. A straight smash just as Jarryd yelled at him to leave a loft return which could have won the set.

First Edberg hit a series of stunning serves to save three set points in the ninth game, and one came in the 11th game, the last of the set, to 15 and make the set 5-3.

It was a short-lived recovery, however. Jarryd faltered once more in the 12th game, this time losing a break point, but he saved himself, and Fleming then safely served out to level the match.

McEnroe's more comprehensive defeat by Henrik Sundstrom in the first set before, but once again there was obvious tension beneath the surface, and he upset the crowd at one stage by lashing a racket at the hands of a ball boy.

The victory of the champion felt the ball boy had impeded him as he scrambled deep into a corner, but in reality it did not seem to affect him at all. He was relieved of the shot, even though he then persuaded Arthur Ashe, the team captain, to claim a let.

Fleming and McEnroe went into the match with an unbeaten record in 14 Davis Cup matches together, and they were the only ones to have beaten them in the semi-finals of this year's United States Open.

Only once, in 1933, when the

BRASHER IN FINE START

By BILL EDWARDS

Kate Brasher, who now mixes lawn tennis with studies at London University, made a good start in defence of the Sunlight BWT Christmas tournament at the David Lloyd Centre, Heston, yesterday.

Using her wide experience she beat Surrey colleague Siobhan Nicholson 6-3, 6-3.

It was a curious match with Miss Brasher winning the first five games, and her opponent getting to within one of being 4-5 in the second set. Miss Nicholson went away with the match, but she was unable to strike back and take six straight games.

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TELEVISION—TUESDAY

GUIDE BY PETER KNIGHT

BBC-1

6.30 a.m. Breakfast Time, with Frank Bough and Selina Scott. 9.30 a.m. In Deceit Britain—May on Mendip, rpt. 10.30-10.55 Play School, rpt. 12.30 News, Weather. 12.57 Region News (London and South East only: Financial Report and News Headlines). 1.10 Pebble Mill at One, with the final of the Christmas Carol Competition. 1.45 Rocky Coker. 2.15 Living on the Land—Lambing Time at Harpall Hall, rpt. 2.25 The Affairs of Annabel (1952, b.w.). Free-wheeling farce with Lucille Ball as a scatter-brained actress carrying over her roles into real life. With Jack Oakie. 3.30 Cartoon Double Bill. 3.45 (not London) Regional News. 3.50 Play School. 4.15 Dastardly and Muttley, rpt. 4.30 The Land of Green Ginger by Noel Langley, read by Michael Barrymore. 4.35 Captain Caveman. 4.45 So You Want to Be Top. 5.10 John Craven's Newsround. 5.10 Star Trek—City on the Edge of Forever, rpt. 5.35 Weather. 6.00 NEWS. 6.30 REGIONAL MAGAZINES. 6.55 THE DISTRICT NURSE—When a schoolboy's game of football ends in disaster, Megan and David find a footballer, an impromptu rescue operation. (Cetrex subtitles). 7.25 HALLS OF FAME—The venue this week is The Empire Theatre, Sunderland, where memories of

Elia Retford, Mark Sheridan, Jimmy James and Henry King are rekindled by Roy Hudd. Among those helping him recall the halcyon days of the theatre are Noel Gordon, Bob and Alex Ferguson, Alan Price, Helen Shapiro and Frankie Vaughan.

AGENCY AND LACEY

9.00 NEWS, WEATHER. 9.25 MORE LIVES THAN ONE—On the surface the marriage of David Cowley, a middle-aged London builder, seems both serene and secure. But then his latent homosexual tendencies begin to emerge and his life is threatened with disaster. Controversial drama by John Peacock, with Michael N. Harbour, Elsiebeth Charlton and Daniel Webb. 10.45 THE OTHER HALF—Victor and Marilyn, rpt. London and South East only (East-Spectrum; Midlands). The Truth about Christmas: North York Minister Simon Tarkenton on our doorstep; South West—Spotlight Review of the Year; West—And it's Christmas to Bat... 11.15 CLAIRE RAYNER'S CASEBOOK. 11.40 LATE NIGHT IN CONCERT—Elkie Brooks. One of the country's finest singers in concert at the New Theatre, Hull, where she featured many of her hit songs, including "I'll Be Home" and "Pearl's a Singer". 12.5 Weather.

BBC-2

3.50 p.m. Backstairs at the White House, rpt. Part two of this four-part American series which looks at the lives of eight Presidents and their families through the eyes of two maids, a mother and her daughter who worked at the White House for 62 years. 5.00 Open to Questions. Billy Connolly, the Scottish comedian, answers questions from his teenage Scottish audience. 6.00 THE ROCKFORD FILES—New film, Old Dragons. Repeat. 6.50 LOST SOULS—Anthony Burton escorts Charles Bowman on a five-mile walk across unknown terrain. 7.5 THE FIRST NOELS—Early Nativity Carols. Sir Geraint Evans shows how dance, drama and carols were brought together to herald the festive season during the Middle Ages.

7.30 WHISTLE TEST—John Peel reports on a recording session, Andy Kershaw visits the Thompson Twins in Paris and Richard Skinner surveys the Christmas charts. Plus music from Lou Reed and The Penguin Cafe Orchestra. 8.30 "TOMMY" (1975). Rock opera written by composer-guitarist Pete Townshend, with screenplay by Ken Russell, who also directed the film. Extravaganza and bombast in Russell's usual vein with many stunning visual effects. The story concerns a deaf, dumb and blind child who is eventually cured and goes on to become a rock celebrity with Oliver Reed, Ann-Margret, Roger Daltrey, Elton John, Eric Clapton, Keith Moon, Keith Nicholson and The Who. 10.15 CHRISTMAS ON TWO—Preview of Christmas programmes on this channel. 10.25 NEWSNIGHT. 11.10-11.40 BUONGIORNO ITALIA!—Repeat.

ITV Thames

6.25 a.m. Good Morning Britain. 9.25 Sesame Street, preceded by Thames News Headlines. 10.25 The Moomins, rpt. 10.30 Hold Tight! 10.50 Time to Time. 11.10 On Safari. 11.35 Razzmatazz. 12.25 The Tank Engine and Friends. 12.18 Rainbow, rpt. 12.30 The Sullivans. 1. News. 1.20 Thames News. 1.28 Region News. 1.30 Open to Questions. Bearing Gifts, rpt. 2.30 Daytime: Sarah Kennedy, her guests and studio audience discuss a topical issue. 3. University Challenge—The Tournament: second semi-final. 3.25 Thames News Headlines. 3.30 The Young Doctors. 4. Thames the Tank Engine and Friends. 4.15 Will Cwac Cwac. 4.20 How Dare You! 4.45 CBTV. 5.15 Emmerdale Farm. 5.45 NEWS. 6.00 THAMES NEWS. 6.20 HELP! presented by Viv Taylor Gee—Home Farm Trust, part 1: a home for the mentally handicapped. 6.30 CROSSROADS. 6.55 REPORTING LONDON—With Michael Barratt.

7.30 GIVE US A CLUE—Michael Parkinson hosts another game of clues with teams led by Lionel Blair and Anna Stubbs. 8.00 DES O'CONNOR TONIGHT. 9.00 TAKING THE LID OFF—As the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children marks its centenary, John Peel has now reckoned that the number of cases of child abuse has doubled over the past six years. Here, in an often quite moving, always deeply disturbing film, some of the children who have suffered abuse talk about their experiences and the effects on their lives. Most of the children helped devise their own sequences in the programme which is presented entirely from the children's viewpoint. 10.00 NEWS AT TEN, followed by Thames News Headlines. 10.30 "ENTER THE DRAGON" (1973). Martial arts expert Bruce Lee's last film, an all-action extravaganza, with Lee joining British intelligence to help clean up traffic in Hong Kong. The plot often gets lost but the spectacular action is usually quite mind-boggling. With John Saxon and Anna Capri. 12.25 NIGHT THOUGHTS, with Moshe Davis.

Channel 4

2.30 "Jewel Robbery" (1952, b.w.). Romantic drama with William Powell as an urban Jew thief and Kay Francis as a baroness who falls for his charms. 3.45 Years Ahead, presented by Robert Douglas and including a report on a special holiday for the disabled. 4.30 Countdown. 5. The Human Jungle—The Quick and the Dead. B.w. rpt. 6.00 THE AVENGERS—The Murder Market. B.w. rpt. 7.00 CHANNEL FOUR NEWS, including an interview with Norman Tebbit; at 7.30 Comment and Weather. 8.00 BROOKSIDE. 8.30 4 WHAT IS IT WORTH—Presented by Penny Junor, with John Stoneborough investigating the pro-

motors of a competition in which the winners lost out. Bill Brockton, planning to threat to local Trading Standards Office and David Stratford, looking out some best buys in supermarket wines. 9.00 "A CHRISTMAS WITHOUT SNOW" (1979). Off-beat American drama starring John Houseman as a stern choirmaster whose rehearsals for a production of Handel's Messiah trigger off many personal dramas among singers. Warm-hearted and seasonal, with Michael Learned. 10.50 AMJAD KHAN IN CONCERT—The young sarod player, who is reckoned to be among the best in the world, plays before a small invited audience. 11.45-12.15 TENNIS—The Davis Cup Final: Sweden v United States. Highlights from Gothenburg. ** Outstanding. * Recommended.

ITV REGIONS

TVS

6.25 Good Morning. 9.25 Sesame Street. 10.25 Fabulous Funnies. 10.35 Tales of Tom Post. 11.00 The Little Rascals. 11.30 Christmas Special. 11.35 Orphans of the Wild. 12.00 Tank Engine Thomas. 12.18 Rainbow, rpt. 12.30 The Sullivans. 1.00 News: TVS News. 1.15 Will Cwac Cwac. 1.20 Daytime. 1.25 The Comedians. 1.30 News. 1.35 University Challenge. 1.40 Tank Engine Thomas. 1.45 Will Cwac Cwac. 1.50 How Dare You! 1.55 Sons and Daughters. 2.00 News. 2.05 Coast to Coast. 2.10 Police 5. 2.15 Crossroads. 2.20 Emmerdale Farm. 2.25 Give Us a Clue. 2.30 Des O'Connor Tonight. 2.35 The Young Doctors. 2.40 News: Anglia News. 2.45 Will Cwac Cwac. 2.50 How Dare You! 2.55 CBTV. 3.00 News: Anglia News. 3.05 Will Cwac Cwac. 3.10 How Dare You! 3.15 CBTV. 3.20 News: Anglia News. 3.25 Will Cwac Cwac. 3.30 How Dare You! 3.35 CBTV. 3.40 News: Anglia News. 3.45 Will Cwac Cwac. 3.50 How Dare You! 3.55 CBTV. 4.00 News: Anglia News. 4.05 Will Cwac Cwac. 4.10 How Dare You! 4.15 CBTV. 4.20 News: Anglia News. 4.25 Will Cwac Cwac. 4.30 How Dare You! 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